**Transcription of Interview with Alonso**

Place: Popular Community Centre

Date and time: 29 November 2022, Starting at 13 hrs

Duration: 52:11 mins

Additional observation notes: The interview is on the terrace at the People's Community Centre. This is my second interview, and I feel more familiar with the place. I arrive on time and Alonso is waiting for me. We go up to the terrace together, where we have the interview. After the interview, Alonso agreed to complete a participant diary. Initially, he told me he wanted to use his name, commenting that he was "proud of his name".

Participants: Interviewer [A] ; Alonso [Alonso]

TRANSCRIPTION

Alonso: Do I tell you about my place, my surroundings, what I have seen, what I think is needed, what I hate? There are still small issues around here and we have had bad experiences, so does all that go in the interview or just other things?

A: Well, everything can go, but we can start with an introduction about yourself, your information in general.

A: Hello good afternoon, I'm Alonso, and I'm 76 years old. I am a native of Mexico City, as we say here vulgarly, a “chilango” at heart. Proud of my country, with some inconveniences because of the people who have been in government years ago, but I don't complain about this one. But experiences from years ago with rulers that I don't agree with what they did, with what happened when they were in government. I think that is the sense of many people because most of us have complained about that up to now.

I am proud of my country, as I said, and I am aware of what I am going to talk to you about my surroundings. I already told you about my place of origin, which is a working-class neighbourhood, barrio bravo as they call it here. But I was very young when I was in other parts of the city. I was born in another neighbourhood and I lived in the State of Mexico for many years, and here in Santo Domingo, I have happily been living for about 35 years. I am not a native of here like many people. I don't have my own house, I rent. I have a family: I have a wife and two children. And there have been experiences where, for example, my wife's relatives have died here for some reason, because of their fault or not because of their fault, two of them have died, so there have been experiences like that. We have had conflicts with some neighbours who don't agree with my way of thinking. I can be calm, I am not aggressive, I have always been a hard worker. I have been working since I was eleven years old. I am the eldest of eight siblings, and so I always had to work, and I worked.

A: Yes, and you told me now that you are retired a moment ago

Alonso: I am retired, my last job was at the pedagogical university, thirty uninterrupted years to be able to retire. They retired me in 1960, not of my own free will, I wanted to continue working, but my bosses told me: "Alonso, keep looking, you're not going to work here any longer", because of the institution's rules and regulations. And that's how it was, they made me look for something. And so it hurt me a little bit, because I was very satisfied with my work, I gave what I had to give, I wasn't negative. I left with diplomas and awards, and my bosses treated me very well. After more than thirty years, imagine, I worked with five or six rectors at that time, because they didn't last very long. And there were many more changes in middle management, because, as you say, corruption always disrupts everywhere. But there were people with a lot of human value and capacity, although others didn't, who didn't take you into account as a worker or a person or anything else.

A: What kind of work did you do there?

Alonso: I started as a janitor, doing the cleaning, and I came out as an administrative technician, as an office manager. Because I was prepared at the university itself. I didn't have any outside, formal studies, but the courses at the university were for the academic sector, but they invited the administrative sector, and whenever I had time, I always asked my bosses to let me take that course. And I am proud to have ten or twelve certificates that I took courses and everything: quality at work, human relations, prosperity at work. In other words, little courses that were useful to me.

A: And did you have any education before that?

Alonso: High school, up to the second semester. As I was self-taught, I was on my own, I didn't have time to study. And it hurt me a lot that in the last exam I took I got a five and failed in all subjects. It was just me on my own, so there was no time to study. There were advisors at INEA, because INEA was the one that established the work. But I didn't go to the counselling sessions because I didn't want to leave my job. And it did affect me a little bit because I got a five in my grade. How sad.

A: Do you identify with any indigenous group or anything like that?

Alonso: No. I admire them, but I don't.

A: I admire them too.

Alonso: And I don't speak Náhuatl or Otomí, just words you hear around.

A: Well, many words in our everyday Spanish come from there too.

Alonso: But no, I don't dare say that I am.

A: And speaking of the environment, of the neighbourhood, how did you come to live in Santo Domingo?

Alonso: When I got married, when they married me I should rather say [laughs] and they brought me here to Patos street. The in-laws brought me, because they commented that they didn't want to lose a daughter, because she was the youngest in the family, the most spoiled, and someone said "well, they're not going to lose a daughter, they're going to gain a son" and someone said, "what son is going to come into the family" [laughs] and that was another preamble. But to be honest with myself I'm satisfied. I've made many mistakes, and I've had some successes too, especially at work, because I took charge of the purchasing office, and at that time I managed a fund of 60,000 pesos a month, and I never stole a peso, never. I spent the 60,000 pesos, I did my check, and they gave me another one. And I received purchase orders, and I organised myself. And I liked my job very much, I was very happy in my job.

A: So you say you've been here for about 30 years now?

Alonso: 35 years approximately. Yes, because since I've been dating my wife for a few years I've been here, I was already starting to heat up the place, so to speak. I've been married for 30 years now, that's my eldest son's age.

A: And the neighbourhood was very different from what it is now?

Alonso: Very different. And more than anything it makes me very sad, not because of what I lived through, because it was real. But the people, the pioneers, the founders, the invaders, as many people call those who came to invade here, I don't understand the word, if you can call an invader someone who needs something and gets in. They had problems with the authorities and whatever you want, but they needed it.

But they tell me that it was very sad because there were no services and it was a volcanic area. The people who wanted to build, even to make the streets, needed pure machinery, because you know that when you peck at volcanic rock you get a spark, I'm telling you because I lived through it. I didn't have to suffer so much with water, electricity or drainage services, because when I arrived here my in-laws had already bought a plot of land. And then they finally paid for it. Most of them, as I said, invaded, out of necessity or for pleasure or whatever you want. But my in-laws already had a space there with rooms, as you like, improvised or small. So there was already something there, and I didn't have to suffer so much.

We suffer more now that there is no water and all that. In some houses even now there is no drainage. Some of us are using the cracks, there are many cracks and caves, they say. I don't know them, but they say that there are huge, long cracks. I don't know, I haven't investigated that. I don't know what could be in a cave like that. I'm afraid of animals so I don't go in there, snakes or crabs or scorpions [laughs]. But if there have been testimonies of people from the past, pioneers, most of the people they told me about, that I met, are no longer alive. The people that remain and tell those stories are their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, or great-grandchildren. But of the people from that time I don't really remember anything more than what my in-laws talked about.

And what I have seen was very sad, because at one time when I lived in the State of Mexico I also had to live in a place where there was no water, and I was young and I had my waterproof boots and my water holder to walk about a block or block and a half carrying water, where I lived with my grandparents at first. And yes, it was heavy.

A: You had to fetch water.

Alonso: I had to go for the water, you had to go in because there was no other way. So I'll tell you what people say in the meetings, nowadays not so much because the heirs, I mean, the third or fourth generations, they were still talking about their parents, their grandparents, and even they themselves were talking about what they lived through. But now there are many more new people in terms of time, in terms of life.

But I do feel that it was sad about the water. Because there were other needs, other priorities that were not there at the beginning. Fortunately, as time went by, people from the government arrived who did want to work, who did work, and there began to be roads, then streets, and water and electrification arrived in some parts. And when I arrived here, there was water, even if it was scarce.

A: And how would you describe Santo Domingo, this neighbourhood where you live? Do you remember it fondly?

Alonso: Yes, very much. Very much because my children were born here and I feel that there has been progress. And I have met very positive people. I mean, I like the neighbourhood, I like the neighbourhood. And I am proud of it, because once someone who was a student asked me where I lived, and I told him I lived in Coyoacán, and he told me "you live in the most beautiful delegation in Mexico". Studied people who told me "how wonderful Coyoacán is". And I am proud to live here.

A: And when you arrived here, what was the relationship with the neighbours like?

Alonso: They were very close, yes, but there were times when there were some issues because, not with the adults, but above all with the coming generations, they took up vices, thievery. It made me sad, without caring so much because I don't have daughters, to see the young girls getting high, getting high with the bunch of marijuana addicts who hang out here. I thought to myself, what a waste of life, because when they are young they can do something, but they don't do it. But that's not my case, I mean, fortunately, my kids are like any other kids today, a little bit crazy, a little bit rowdy, a little bit naughty, youthful. But there are others who are not. And I saw their parents or grandparents suffer with them, or they would pick them up from the streets all beaten up, or from prison. And I tell you, it was all to myself, I never talked about it with anyone, not even my family, but I would look at them and it made me sad.

A: So this problem has been there at different times?

Alonso: Yes, but I tell you, not wanting to be negative or so drastic, Santo Domingo is good, the people are fine.

A: What are the people like here?

Alonso: Well, the people, there are very beautiful people. I like the places that have been achieved over time. I'm proud of the University, of the metro when it came here because it didn't go all the way to here, it went all the way to Zapata. Proud of the Azteca Stadium, when I compare Santo Domingo with other places I have seen and known, I am happy here. So I feel happy about Coyoacán, including Santo Domingo and the pedregales. In fact, right now I am taking music classes, and singing classes, and our group is called "los musiqueros de los pedregales", or the musicians of the pedregales. I want to start learning to sing now at my age. Not right now because I'm a little sick, I got sick with the pandemic, Covid affected me a lot, but I used to sing beautifully because people liked it, they never kicked me out of any party [laughs] so I want to learn again but just to get a good relief.

A: And in this group of musicians are they neighbours, or people from the neighbourhood?

Alonso: Just locals, just neighbours.

A: And how did you meet them?

Alonso: Well, at parties, or because I was in another group before this one, but it didn't last long because it fell apart with the pandemic, each member went their own way. So I didn't sing for years. It's that there in your house, which is not my house but I offer it to you.

A: Thank you

Alonso: Since there are five families living there, there is a lot of friction, a lot. The family I live with is my wife's family, it's not my family. All my family is outside the country. My eight siblings all live together, but they are all outside the republic. And my wife's family is very delicate, for example, I would play my music, and they would say "tell Alonso to turn off his scandal", or I would vocalise and they would say "tell that madman to shut up". So I got sad, I couldn't work, I couldn't do chores or anything else. And I met this little group and we have a place that they lend us, so we sing, dance, jump and nobody says anything to us. And I'm happy, that's how I got to know this little group because I used to pass by this place. I would go on an errand and there I would see them. And we're all adults, there are some who are younger than us but most of us are older adults, so there's a lot of communication, everything, almost all of us have the same experience singing, so it's a great group.

A: That's good.

Alonso: I'm very happy there. And they accepted me very well. They love me a lot, so you understand me, and what more can I ask for? I'm very happy there.

A: That's great, it's perfect, I'm very happy for you. And they play instruments there too?

Alonso: Most of them do, I don't, although I've tried, but there are things we're not good at. Some people have the ability and others don't. I tried. I tried, I enrolled in keyboard classes with a teacher in Colonia del Valle but I couldn't play well. The teacher told me that my hand was too short and I couldn't play the octave. In another place I went to play guitar and I couldn't either, I couldn't do it.

A: But singing, yes

Alonso: Singing yes, yes I do. And what else can I tell you about what I love about the neighbourhood?

A: The neighbours

Alonso: Well, the neighbours. I don't know what other people think, but I get on very well with everyone around me, most of them. There may be some who don't. Because I have heard some envious neighbours who say things about me, but I don't take them into account. I want to be intelligent, I don't listen to the envious. I get on very well with my neighbours on the block, from other neighbourhoods too, because we have met at some event, at some party, and we tell them that we are from Santo Domingo and we accept each other. I don't know if it's because of the atmosphere, the environment we live in, or if they just tell me that they like me.

A: And do you see your neighbours on the block very often or just once in a while?

Alonso: No, the ones on the block every day because I'm always on the street. And I call my wife my boss, although the neighbours say things to me because most of them are macho, but not me. And they say to me: "why does your wife boss you around?" And so what, it doesn't affect me, but I can tell you that some people are macho, and that's not my case. I go to the tortillas, I go here and there and many people know me, and I get on well with most of them. I feel very proud because if there is a party with a neighbour, they call me to sing for their wives or nieces, they invite me and I ask them if they want me to invite a female member of the group to sing for them too, and they say yes, and then it's a big party. But those who have invited me get along well. And I'm very happy because the grandchildren of those families who invite me to their parties greet me. And I've been called wolf since I was young, I don't know why, but I like the nickname. And the little boys of five or six years old say to me, "goodbye Mr. Wolf", and I say "goodbye little friend", and I feel good. So I say yes, I feel good, I feel at ease, and I feel proud of Santo Domingo and the people around me.

A: Thank you very much for telling me. And I would like to ask you about the subject of water, which you have already told me a little about. Now that you've come to live here, I don't know if you could tell me a bit about the lack of water, when it started and how it has affected you here in Santo Domingo.

Alonso: Well, since I arrived, I remember that, some thirty or thirty-two years ago, previously there was no water in the houses. At least in most of them. Later they helped us and put in keys. I don't remember which government installed them, but they put one of those hose bibb faucets at some key points, and that's where we went to line up to fill our buckets or jars of water. But it wasn't like that all the time. Because some people misused those taps. Sometimes they would steal things from there, like the tap itself. There have been people who, God knows what they had in mind, but for example, you would go to get a little water two or three times a week, and then because of some wickedness they had taken the tap away, there was no more water. Until it was reinstalled. And then they started to pull water from the wells around here, as far as I've heard. But they didn't supply the whole colony. It was even a problem with neighbourhoods like El reloj, Ajusco, the surrounding neighbourhoods, Copilco and all that. And Santo Domingo is the centre of all the pedregales as far as I know and remember. And we used to go to the places where they had permanent water from wells and all that. Even when UNAM had water, they used to put water outlets outside the campus, because people would ask the University for water.

A: And there it was also taken from the taps?

Alonso: Yes, and it didn't come with much capacity, it was a trickle, as we would say. But the trickle didn't stop. And here, what I remember about Santo Domingo is that the trickle also started, although not in all the houses. And as time went by, they started to pull the net and I remember that it was always the trickle.

A: I mean, there wasn't much pressure.

Alonso: Not much pressure, but there was less suffering.

A: So at the beginning you had to go to the taps and form a line, and there were a lot of people?

Alonso: Yes, there were a lot of people there.

A: And how much water did you manage to fill there or collect?

Alonso: Well, when there weren't many people, we used to take advantage of it, and even five or six jugs a day. And there were days when there was no water, and we would go back to the next day, or the next. But if there was a way, about five or six bottles, demijohns.

Before, there wasn't bottled water like there is now, and everywhere you go you can find a bottling company, or the same soft drink companies now sell bottled water. But before there was no bottled water, it didn't exist. Nowadays you can get bottled water wherever you go.

And fortunately it's been a few years since I've had to have many troubles over water. Here in Santo Domingo I was fortunate enough to see how people started to get together to fight for water. Just to say: "well, let's go to the mayor's office, to the federal government, to some authority", and people started to get together.

Now the Committee we have that you know, I feel that it has been the biggest and the most fierce, because even in these issues there are some people who are apathetic. People who say: "Why am I going to make a fuss if other people are going to go?” And I criticise that, I don't think it's right. If there is a benefit for ten, why do one or two have to look for it? I criticised it, but for me, because I'm very critical in that respect. But I tell you, this group with the leaders of the Committee that we are with, I give them my compliments. Neighbours, even people like me who are older, or people older than me, my respects. With a lot of conviction.

A: And how did you start participating in this group?

Alonso: Well, I was driven by the very same need. Now it's just for pleasure, I'll be honest. But it was necessity that led me at the beginning, and I think it was also what led several of my neighbours to join, and they started to encourage and encourage me. But as I said, many people don't care, but many others think like me, and each one has their own ideals. And that's why it became such a big group. I had participated in other groups, but smaller ones.

A: Also because of the water?

Alonso: Yes, because this problem has been in all the surrounding neighbourhoods. I'm talking about Santo Domingo because I'm proud of it and I've seen the kind of beating up and fight that we-ve had [laughs], but this water issue was in Ajusco, La Candelaria, Los Reyes, in all the surrounding neighbourhoods. Although of all the mobilisations I've seen, for me this is the biggest.

A: What makes it different?

Alonso: There are more people, and the testimonies that I heard from the founding and pioneering people, they really had to give it their all, and now we are enjoying what these people suffered, fought and struggled for. So if you are a little bit intelligent you can reason it out and that's why I think that way about what is happening now. Thanks to that participation, we no longer struggle with water.

Before the well, this Committee managed to establish a tandeo. In order for the most people to benefit, this sector received water on Mondays and Tuesdays, or Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I don't know how they did it. They would open I don't know what valve or well or pipe, and it would come to us. So you knew that if you didn't have water in three days, then take care of it and take advantage of it. And it would arrive, sometimes a little or a lot, and take care of it.

But I repeat that it has made me very angry that with these crises, years ago, there were people washing the pavements with hoses, washing cars with hoses when the water arrived. And that is cruel. So I tell you, that's how we've got to where we are now.

A: So for you it has been an achievement of the Committee that there have been improvements in the tandeo?

Alonso: Yes, I will always say it: my respect and admiration for this committee. You know who they are, why do I mention them, but for all of them, and for my neighbours, all my admiration.

A: You told me that you are still there for pleasure. What do you like most about this group that makes you keep going?

Alonso: Yes, for pleasure. Well, I like to comment on the achievements, or to see the achievements. And also the non-achievements. Because, although apparently we are a group and we should all get along well as a group, as people, as neighbours, there is always someone who comes out with a little issue. I don't know if you've heard that the neighbours who live right next to the well are opposed to it. Those families that I am telling you, with all due respect, never thought that this well was going to benefit them primarily, because they live across the street. And they always created problems for us. There were moments when we almost got into fist fights. I didn't go in because I'm very cowardly, I'm short and there were some very big ones. But I did know and I did see people fighting, rude people, even disrespectful to the neighbours. Imagine that they tried to attack them, because of the same argument that they didn't agree with us, who are the majority.

A: They didn't want the well.

Alonso: They didn't want it, and they argued and argued. We went all the way to the mayor's office, and the mayor's office itself, these damned people didn't even respect the authorities.

A: And what reasons did they give for opposing the well?

Alonso. No logic reasons. Forgive me, I am neither an engineer nor an architect, but they had no logic. I heard a conversation that stuck with me, of two men and a woman, saying that when they are digging the well they are going to use dynamite and drills, who knows what. And they said "they're going to weaken my house and throw it away. Are they going to pay me for my house if they're going to throw it away?" Such were their ideas.

A: So the Committee had to defend the well.

Alonso: Yes, a lot. And obviously the Committee couldn't do it alone. That's why they came to us. I say they came to us because they lead with the invitation, with the word and the examples of others. Well, those who thought more intelligently and for the good of all without selfishness, they said "I'm going" and became our representatives. And that's how it was, but that's the bad memory I have of those people that opposed the well.

A: And what was the good thing?

Alonso: Just the achievements. Thanks to all those who have been willing, and who don't let themselves get carried away with the rudeness and the almost getting into a fistfight, they have calmed down. Suppose they are not totally convinced, because negative people like that will never reach the good limits. So they will always be negative. I don't think they're totally convinced, but they've calmed down. They just look at what is being done, but they don't say anything.

I'm telling you because then the Committee set up the commissions so that one of them goes by every day to see if the people are working, and yes, I've been there. And they look out of the windows, one lady when it was my turn, about two or three weeks ago, asked me what I was doing, and I wasn't going to be rude to the lady, and I told her, "nothing little lady, they asked me to please take a photo and send it to the committee so that they could prove to the authority that the workers at the well are working, that they are not stopped, that they are complying with the commitment that exists between them and the authority", and she was not very convinced and she went in. But like that, people passed by and kept looking at me. But I know who is who. I would go there and stand in front of them, first I would look and then I would take out my mobile phone and take a photo. And I would leave. I was there for ten minutes at the most, because how long can it take you to look at a group of people, at a machine working. But that's the only sad or negative thing I have, but otherwise my compliments, and my appreciation to all this Committee, to all my neighbours.

A: Do you feel proud to be part of this group?

Alonso: Yes, very much so.

A: Does it mean something good for you to participate?

Alonso: Yes, of course, I love them as if they were my family [touched to the verge of tears].

A: Did you know them before?

Alonso: Not most of them. Up to now, most of the people we've met have been in the movements. But I have met a couple of people, especially my close neighbours who continue to participate.

But some of my own neighbours are no longer involved. Because as I said, they had or have money. They have more than others, and when they started to build their houses on the land, I looked at the huge cisterns. And I said there's money there, to build a little house like that. And then there are people who have two or three plots of land, I don't know how. And if you've noticed how the plots are here, some are bigger than others. So most of those who built the big houses are no longer involved.

A: They don't have the need?

Alonso: They don't have the need or they don't care. They don't think they have any benefit or have anything to gain from this. It's enough for them, they make fools of themselves, or I don't know. But the majority of us, who are the majority of people in need, have very little money. Because there are people who have to make ends meet, who don't have that much more.

I, for example, receive my pension from my job, which is good, because I know people who receive much less than me, and even with what they give me I don't get enough for my monthly income sometimes. Every month I get my pension and sometimes, like in the last week, I no longer have enough for food. Because where I'm living I'm not free, they take a little rent from me because they are all family, except me, so I have to put in a little money because that's how they established it, so I pay rent, so to speak. Of my two sons, only one studied and the other dropped out for reasons I wanted to understand, because he says, and I don't know where the hell he got the idea, that a degree isn't everything. I never understood it, but he is the youngest of them. And he gave up his law degree years ago and went on to study something else, I'm not going to say that he was lazy, he studied gastronomy, he took courses in a few things. And sometimes he manages to put on a banquet, organising a party. He studied technical drawing and he makes a sketch or a little drawing and they give him a hundred or two hundred pesos, and with that he gets by. And right now I presume he's going back to take the admission course for the UNAM, right now, because he recognises that he was wrong. The other one did finish his degree, and he's not working yet, but he's doing a master's degree in I don't know what speciality, because Law has many modern branches.

A: So you tell me that unfortunately many people have a very strong economic need?

Alonso: That's right, but not everyone. There is a lot of difference between the neighbours, because many do have and many others don't, and others have much less than me, because it's only one person who generates money, or is a worker or a street vendor, and that doesn't give you enough, and they have four or five children and pay rent. So they are not living, they are suffering.

A: And the defence of water helps to improve living conditions?

Alonso: I feel that it does. And I feel that my answer is generalised, because first of all it is a necessity. Yes, I have heard in the meetings that water is an obligation and a necessity for human beings. So from there I think that it is a collective benefit for everyone, in many ways, including those who don't have much need. Because they are using the water and they never show up. They don't need to go out and fetch water when there is no water pipe or pull water from somewhere, I don't know, they don't have that need like we do. For example, there were times when we were also among those who asked for a pipe, and sometimes we were lucky. And I say luck, because sometimes we got it in one or two days, but sometimes we didn't get it.

A: The pipe?

Alonso: Yes, the pipe. The last time we asked for it a fortnight ago it didn't arrive. And then we asked for a private one that we paid for together, and that's how we held out for a while. And then the water came again, thank God. But I think that the Committee's action and movement has benefited us in many ways. And among the neighbours themselves, you get inspired by them. I have realised that they do inspire you. So I feel that it is a benefit in many ways.

A: And you say that now you've become like a family.

Alonso: Yes, that's what I think.

A: And the issue of water is important to you? do you think you have become conscious of taking care of water?

Alonso: Yes, because if there is one thing a human being should have, not just me, but any human being, it is to value things. If you don't value the things you live with, then what's become of you. And in this case water is vital. And if you have felt the need for it at some point, why not value it, why not avoid wasting it? It is wasted by throwing it into the street. Or if you have a car, it is better to wash it with a bucket. And if you have a dirty pavement, just sweep it. I personally feel that I have really felt the lack of water. So for the same reason I want to take care of it. I have to do it, for my own sake and for the sake of my family.

A: And is caring for the environment important to you too?

Alonso. Yes, it's another human need. Because without trees, without rain, without wind, without sun and all that, we don't live. So it goes together with water, because that's how I see it. They are other needs. The whole environment matters, all of that. The same with what is happening, the things that we are looking at that are deteriorating and then the natural things no longer exist. So I repeat, why not take care of what you need? If this is about your wellbeing, about the environment, then do something. You can do something. And I am going to do it, in fact, my family is also with me. My children, above all, are enemies of disposables. And they always tell me, when we buy soda, because we hardly drink soda. They tell me not to pollute with so much rubbish.

A: So taking care of the environment goes together with the water issue?

Alonso: Yes, that's what I'm telling you. It's life itself, A. Right now we are dealing with our important issue of water, but look at the rest, it is just as necessary, just as vital and just as valuable. That's what I think.

A: Well, to end the interview, do you think that being part of this group is important for your day-to-day life? In your daily activities do you communicate or see your neighbours often?

Alonso: Yes, in terms of friendship, socially. Simply in terms of living together. That's why I love them all. And I do feel it very much alive. And always in some way the greetings and the way you treat each other, in how you say "what's up, neighbour" and all that.

A: Being neighbours has given you some strength in this defence of water?

Alonso: Yes, totally, because that's where you see the results. You can see that it has not been in vain the times that we have gone to the mayor's office to protest, or the times that we have gone to close streets or to swear at bad rulers. Because that's the way we are, the people of the capital. We are barrio, as they say, and the barrio is tough, rude and rough.

But as I keep telling you, this is also coexistence, and a positive one at that. Right now I don't complain about any neighbour and I don't speak ill of any neighbour. I'm happy the way I'm living.

A: Is there anything else you would like to add about your experience, anything we haven't covered that you would like to add?

Alonso: Well, I think, with my lack of knowledge of engineering, that this well is a great achievement. And it is going to benefit us for the rest of our lives. Because as long as that well is giving us water, it's going to be giving us life. And I do feel that it is a great achievement. A great benefit for everyone. And it was worth it. Let's just all give it the value it deserves. And good for my neighbours who think like me. Because the more the merrier, and we become stronger if we are more. On my own, maybe I don't do anything, but you've seen the group, there are people who are very militant and strong supporters. So I send a fraternal hug to my neighbours, and to the Committee.

A: Thank you very much.

Alonso. I hope that what we are talking about will be useful to you, will help you, and that you will use it for good, from the bottom of my heart.