

Go On Grounds

How the Residents of a Moroccan
Village Resisted a Mining Company

An Undergraduate Thesis Portfolio
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Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

by

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Preface

How can vulnerable groups protect themselves? Individuals in isolation can be vulnerable to threats. For safety, individuals often organize into coalitions for mutual benefit.

Especially on university campuses, walking is a practical mode of mobility. At night, however, walking students may be vulnerable to threats. In the technical project, a means was developed by which students can quickly and easily locate walkers who can share much of the same route. The app thereby promotes group walking, which is safer than isolated walking.

Residents of the Tinghir region, Imider and neighboring villages in Morocco face numerous problems, including water scarcity, environmental degradation, and unemployment. Mining operations in these regions bring employment opportunities, but also exacerbate water and environmental problems. In Imider, men, women, and children from the seven villages comprising Imider have organized. They meet twice a week to assess the community's situation. They use the *Agraw* system, an ancient model of Amazigh democratic tribal governance. For self-protection, villagers established a negotiating committee in 2011 to speak with representatives.