



THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

Conclusion Report

Structural Repairs at Rafidia Church and Hall, Palestine

GA 241/20



General Administration
Project Development Office
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Background

The Latin Church of Rafidia was constructed in 1885 and named after Saint Justin who was born in Nablus in 110 AD. The Rafidia parish is one of the most active parishes in Palestine with a community of around 200 believers who are always keen to participate in the Sunday Mass and weekly adorations. Just like most parishes, a community of devoted Sisters is based in Rafidia and helps in serving the parish. In Rafidia, the parish priest is assisted by two Rosary sisters who support his services and all the relevant pastoral activities, in particular those that target children and youth in addition to teaching catechism in the local LP School.

Both the church hall and the youth center are regularly used for meetings involving youth groups, in addition to workshops and trainings, pastoral activities, religious and social celebrations and theological evenings for parish members on major themes such as marriage, the Eucharist, etc.

Project Description

The Latin Church building in Rafidia, Nablus suffered from serious structural cracks and damages in the bearing and facing wall elements of the buildings. A central longitudinal crack was apparent at the roof slab of the passages' arched vaults with vertical and inclined cracks in the stone bearing-walls. After inspections, results revealed that the building was in a deteriorating condition and structurally compromised. Rehabilitation works carried out for the building components in the past did not help in ceasing the progress of deteriorations. Remedial measures were needed to repair the building and restore its stability and safety in addition to some urgent reinforcements at both the hall and the youth center. The project focused on implementing temporary and urgent repairs to improve the stability and performance integrity of the church hall and youth center to ensure structural safety. The project included the following works:

Civil Works

-Demolishing works: included dismantling the existing masonry stone wall separating the entrance from the inner yard -using manual tools -of approximate height (2 -2.4 meter); including removal of its foundation and transporting all debris to another site as approved by the authorities.

-Propping system works: included supplying and installing temporary propping system before excavating for underpinning works. Probs made from 5-ton capacity and timber joists (10x5cm) spaced 80cm in both directions -to the northern and eastern sides of the church; activity hall and praying hall.

-Underpinning system works: included dismantling the existing stone and concrete pavers

at the underpinning excavation areas, manual excavation in alternate segments as sequenced on the drawings, placing 5-ton sacrificial probs in sequence, placing footer reinforcement raised on concrete spacers cubes 10x10x10cm and placing wall reinforcement, in addition to using high slump self-compacting concrete 8200.

-Basecourse and single aggregate size works: supplying one layer of 20cm basecourse and spreading it to the required thicknesses.

-Concrete works: included supplying and placing reinforced concrete grade 'B200' for slab on grade 10 cm thick slab. This in addition to surface leveling, finishing, polyethylene sheets 500-micron, control joints and all related works with steel reinforcement.

-Tiling and stone-paving works: included providing any missing stone paver matching the existing stone in color and texture; stone flooring tiles not less than 25cm in width and 40cm in length, roughening the back of the stone, bedding and joint grouting in cement and sand, and pointing with white cement. This also included tiling works inside the Church using the dismantled tiles, installing any missing tiles and matching the existing tiles in color and texture (inside the church) at the locations affected by the underpinning works and excavation.

Additional Works

Additional works included the following:

- Works at the northern facade, shaded area
- Works at the area of the cancelled wall
- Dismantling and rebuilding of the stone façade
- Excavation works in the hall at 35 cm depth
- Plaster removal and pointing works
- False ceiling works including painting works
- Electrical works
- Painting the stone facade with a protective material
- Painting the steel doors and window security grills
- Dismantling the Virgin Mary shrine followed by repairing works around it
- Repairing the railing of the stairs
- Repairing the existing interlock
- Repairing and painting works targeting the pergola and the area around it
- Sealing a door with stone in the hall

Remaining works (phase II):

-Excavation works to include excavations to the bottom of the wall separating the driveway from

the yard rubble concrete, as indicated in the design drawings, removal of extra soil, debris, and organic materials to the approved sites specified by authorities, and removal of any construction elements not needed in the site for filling cavities with suitable materials.

-Underpinning system works include excavating in alternate segments and placing 5-ton probs in sequence by excavating and placing sacrificial prob A then excavating and placing prob B. This in addition to placing footer reinforcement raised on concrete spacers cubes 10x10x10cm and placing wall reinforcement. This includes also placing one face of shuttering for wall, and topping high-slump, self-compacting concrete B200 to existing rubble foundation or jacketing. The concrete is for the footer, blinding and wall.

-Basecourse and single aggregate size works to include leveling, watering and compacting of sub grade, spreading, leveling, watering and compacting the basecourse, in addition to trimming and cutting around the edges, openings, corners and trenches.

-Concrete works: include all form works and shuttering in any form, shape and size. The works will include making chamfered and curved edges, allowing for and making grooves and sleeves and the like; removal of forms and cleaning of all exposed tie wires and rods; refining the harmed surfaces and edges and all surface finishing. In addition to supplying, placing, casting, vibrating and curing as per specifications, as well as supplying and installing reinforcement of any grade, size and length as detailed in the drawings, storing on site including cutting, bending and fixing in position and providing all tying wires, spacers, shop drawings, testing and bar bending schedules, and supplying and casting B200 rubble concrete where needed. Supplying and placing reinforced concrete grade 'B 200' for foundation and wall necks of the masonry stone wall including formwork and steel reinforcement.

-Consolidation and repair works: include stainless steel bracing, supplying and building new stone pieces matching the existing ones, repairing and renovating damaged stone pieces, and supplying and replacing the broken lintel.

-Masonry stone works: include constructing stone walls with stone from both sides of total thickness 30, using the dismantled stone pieces and providing stone quantity to match the existing in color and texture, cleaning the stone pieces, in addition to concrete tilling using Grade B-150 concrete (thickness 20cm), single steel-mesh 12mmx-20cm both ways, white cement and sand pointing. That includes all jambs, end pieces, grooves, stepping, texture, arch pieces, sills, projections, and all confined and special shaped and sized pieces.

**** See the enclosed cost estimate for a more detailed description of the remaining works.**

Beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries of this project are the parishioners, the Christian community in Nablus (650 of which 200 are Latin Christians) and the surrounding areas. The number of beneficiaries will increase during religious occasions, events and celebrations and the youth will be having a safe and newly rehabilitated place to meet and conduct their social, cultural and religious activities. The project will promote the community's presence in the Church and parish life.

**Photos
Before**



**Photos
After**





**LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM**

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