

Jerusalem Christians Accuse Jews

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JERUSALEM, May 31 — Officials of the Christian Union in Palestine made public today a manifesto saying Jewish forces had used 10 Christian religious and humanitarian institutions in Jerusalem as military bases.

In addition, the manifesto said, 14 institutions in the holy city were destroyed or damaged by shellfire. Three priests have been killed, two were wounded and more than 100 women and children and other non-combatants have become casualties inside Jerusalem "since the Jews began the attack," the statement said.

The manifesto was drafted at the Latin Patriarchate and circulated for signature by these religious groups: Greek Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate, the Franciscan Order, which is custodian of Terra Sancta, the Coptic and Syrian Orthodox patriarchates and the Greek Catholic and Armenian Catholic vicarates.

The Christian Union Committee said it had hoped a truce would protect holy places from the "misfortunes of war."

"But, unhappily, the holy city has become the theater of terrible battles and vast destruction, such as to make churches, convents, religious and humanitarian institutions a target for shell and bullets," the manifesto said.

"In the face of the horrible facts, we feel it our sacred duty, we the representatives of religious leaders of the Christian community, to lift our voices in protest against the violation of our churches, our convents and our various institutions, of which certain ones have been destroyed and others have become prey to flames."