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« The Israeli army's reoccupation of the West Bank and other Palestinian territories has devastated parts of the historic cities of Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron in contravention of international law. The destruction has been deliberate, and observers say it amounts to a symbolic attack on the Palestinian presence in the territory. The deliberate destruction of cultural heritage contravenes the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property During Times of War, of which Israel is a signatory. Israeli reoccupation of some of the main cities on the West Bank and in other Palestinian areas began on April 3. Hundreds of people were left dead, and thousands of private homes, government offices, schools and other buildings were destroyed. The indiscriminate bombing from helicopters and tanks also damaged historic monuments in Nablus, Hebron, Tulkarem and Bethlehem. The Palestinian cultural heritage, Christian and Muslim alike, has also sustained serious damage. Information available from the United Nations' cultural arm, UNESCO, and from a nongovernmental organization based in Paris, Heritage Without Borders, is clear and incontrovertible. In the ancient city of Nablus, the al-Khadrah mosque has been 80% destroyed; the al-Satoun and al-Kabir mosques, converted Byzantine churches, were 20% destroyed; 60 historic houses were demolished (and 200 others partially demolished); the 18th-century eastern entrance to the old market has been destroyed; and seven Roman cisterns and at least 80% of the paved streets have been ruined. The paving in Nablus and a number of monuments in the area had recently been restored with funding from the European Union and UNESCO. Several restoration projects had also taken place recently in Bethlehem. UNESCO's World Heritage office has condemned these acts of vandalism, describing them as "crimes against the cultural heritage of mankind. »