Chapter 2
Supportive Entities

The United Nations General Assembly stresses the need for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent State. (December 2004).

In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, more than three thousand survivors, family members, representatives of victims, and insurance carriers brought action in US courts to seek monetary relief for suicide jet attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the crash in Pennsylvania – the three nearly simultaneous acts of suicide terrorism in which thousands of people on the planes, in the buildings, and on the ground perished, countless others were injured, and property worth billions of dollars was destroyed. The lawsuit alleged that over two hundred defendants directly or indirectly provided material support to suicide jet attackers. These defendants included Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda and its members and associates; nation-states that sponsored the attacks; and individuals and entities, including charities, banks, front organizations, and financiers who provided financial, logistical, and other support to the perpetrators. The theories pleaded in the consolidated lawsuit varied from aiding and abetting to conspiracy, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligence, survival, wrongful death, trespass, and assault and battery. The lawsuit casts a wide net in naming the defendants, some of
whom might not be blameworthy. It nonetheless makes a valid point that the September 11 attackers did not act alone, but were directly or indirectly supported by many others who seriously (though perhaps mistakenly) believed that the US had played a critical role in causing or perpetuating primary and secondary grievances in the Muslim world, including those of Palestinians.

A Theory of International Terrorism maintains that supportive entities are an essential party to the terror triangle. They are called supportive entities because they support an aggrieved population's primary and secondary demands. As noted in the first chapter, an aggrieved population's primary demands originate from the right of self-determination; their secondary demands are related to the restoration of human rights. Supportive entities include states, international governmental organizations (IGO) such as the United Nations (UN), regional communities such as the European Union (EU), and non-governmental organizations (NGO) such as Amnesty International. Supportive entities can also be corporations, churches, and citizen groups that directly or indirectly support the grievances of a population under occupation, alien domination, apartheid, or general surveillance. Even individuals are not excluded from the definition of supportive entities, for they too can be effective advocates for the rights of an aggrieved population. Journalists, lawyers, scholars, teachers, poets, artists, musicians, and producers of documentaries and movies, all contribute in disseminating information about hardships, misery, and sufferings of an aggrieved population. Some individuals support the militancy of an aggrieved population. In sum, any entity is a supportive entity if it furnishes moral, political, economic, informational, or military support to advance or defend the rights of an aggrieved population.

Legitimacy Test

Supportive entities facilitate the operational success of militants who resort to violence. They are critical for the legitimacy of an aggrieved population. If an aggrieved population is unable to garner the backing of supportive entities, the demands of the aggrieved population are suspect and its moral and legal claims to violence are accordingly weakened. But when an aggrieved population draws extensive support from states, IGOs, NGOs, businesses, and individuals, primary and secondary demands of the aggrieved population are vested with legitimacy. If these demands, particularly those