Chapter 3
Suppressive Entities

*The Israeli military has fostered a climate of impunity in its ranks by failing to thoroughly investigate whether soldiers have killed and injured Palestinian civilians unlawfully. Human Rights Watch (June, 2005).*

Suppressive entities along with aggrieved populations and supportive entities complete the triangle of terrorism. Suppressive entities may be states, corporations, groups, or individuals. While supportive entities generally support legitimate demands of the aggrieved population, suppressive entities do the opposite. All suppressive entities condemn the variant forms of militancy. But that is not their defining attribute. Even supportive entities may also denounce militant violence. What distinguishes suppressive entities is their own violence, either in the form of state terrorism or supporting state terrorism, primarily aimed at suppressing the primary and secondary demands of an aggrieved population. Suppressive entities are the source of grievances of the aggrieved population. They simultaneously cause and deny grievances of the target population, often propounding an ontological theory that the militants fighting on behalf of an aggrieved population are inherently evil or that they are addicted to violence or that they are motivated by their religion or culture – and not by their grievances – to perpetrate violence, a point developed in the chapter on essentialist terrorism.
3.1 Suppressive Terrorism

As already explained, primary grievances of an aggrieved population arise from the denial of political liberty including the right of self-determination; secondary grievances stem from gross human rights violations of the same population. Suppressive states, such as India, Israel, and Russia, deny that the people of Kashmir, Palestine, or Chechnya deserve political and territorial independence. In the name of suppressing bandits, fanatics, and terrorists, suppressive entities resort to organized violence, called state terrorism, and violate basic rights of these populations, including the rights to life, property, and physical safety, safeguards against torture, cruel, and degrading treatment. Every suppressive entity builds up a negative relationship with an aggrieved population, but depth of the negative relationship varies from entity to entity. Some suppressive entities simply deny the claims of an aggrieved population whereas others, mostly nation-states, are actively engaged in abusing and tormenting the same population.

State Terrorism

State terrorism is an emerging international term to characterize the nation-state’s violence against an aggrieved population and its militants. The purpose of state terrorism is to terrorize a population into submission. States use several methods to perpetuate occupation, domination, apartheid, or hegemony over an aggrieved population. Indefinite detentions, torture, extra-judicial killings, searches, disappearances, roadblocks, invasions, and bombings are some tools of state terrorism. Private groups use terror to modify the behavior of suppressive entities. States use terror for not only modifying the behavior of an aggrieved population but also to crush militancy and to gain control over land and resources. State terrorism is thus the use of armed force to deter militants from armed struggle. It is also a tool to acquire material advantages. In traditional literature, terrorism is a term used to describe private violence. Increasingly, the term is being expanded to include all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism.

The UN General Assembly (GA) resolutions condemn terrorism in all its forms. State terrorism is not specifically mentioned in