

# PRIMARY FUNDING SOURCES OF JNIM

JNIM seeks to **consolidate its influence by presenting itself as a 'protector' of local populations, in contrast to the Islamic State in the Sahel and to national or foreign armed forces** (including **Russian auxiliaries** such as the **Wagner Group**, now known as **Africa Corps**).



## HOSTAGE RANSOMS

**For a long time, ransom payments were the primary source of funding for Sahelian jihadist groups.**

In October 2020, the **French humanitarian worker and the Malian political leader Soumaila Cissé were released by JNIM**. A ransom payment of **nearly 10 million euros was reported**. However, some information indicates that the funds disbursed may have concerned only the **two Italian citizens who were freed** at the same time as the Frenchwoman and the Malian.

According to several sources, **JNIM received 50 million dollars in ransom payments** (i.e., **43 million euros or 28 billion CFA francs**) in exchange for the release of Middle Eastern hostages, including an Emirati national.

**In Burkina Faso, JNIM is regarded as the main perpetrator of kidnappings**, demanding ransoms ranging from **300,000 to 800,000 CFA francs (450-1,200 euros)** for small traders, and from **2 to 3 million CFA francs (3,000-4,500 euros)** for businesspeople. Owners of gold mining sites and livestock can be exchanged for higher amounts, reaching up to **8 million CFA francs (12,000 euros)**.



## TOLLS AND ROAD TAXATION

**In the areas it controls, JNIM imposes passage fees:**



**Small vehicles : 50 - 100 000 FCFA (75 - 150 EUROS)**



**Trucks : up to 2 millions FCFA, (3000 EUROS)**



**Minibus/Bus between 800 000 (1200-1500 EUROS) and 1 million FCFA**

These levies allow for **complete economic control over key routes** connecting major cities such as **Gao** and **Timbuktu**.



## COLLECTION OF ZAKAT UNDER COERCION (ISLAMIC TAX)

**JNIM exploits the religious obligation of Zakat** to levy taxes in the territories it controls.

This collection is **often enforced by coercion** rather than voluntarily. **In return, it promises relative protection** against **other armed groups** or **abuses by the authorities**.




## CONTROL AND TAXATION OF ARTISANAL GOLD MINING

**Gold is a strategic source of revenue** because it is **easily convertible, less traceable** than other resources, and **lightly regulated** by the state. 

Since **the 2012 gold rush, following the discovery of a vein stretching from Sudan to Mauritania**, several sites in **northern Mali** have been infiltrated, and **links have been reported between jihadists and criminal groups**.

**JNIM collects taxes or directly controls mining sites** (such as the Inabaw mine, which is entirely under jihadist control). **Its presence was also reported at the Intahaka site (Gao region)** prior to the **area's recapture by the Malian army**.

**Similar phenomena** have been reported in **Burkina Faso**, in **Soum Province**, specifically in **Toutoye, 120 km from Djibo**, and in **Inata, 70 km northeast of Djibo** in the eastern part of the country. 



## CATTLE THEFT AND RESALE

**Cattle theft is a major source of revenue for JNIM, as well as for other armed groups** in several regions.

Cattle theft is estimated to have cost Mali **around 3.6 billion CFA francs** (approximately **5.5 million euros**) between 2019 and 2022, **with nearly 900,000 cattle and 446,000 small ruminants reported stolen**.

**JNIM collects 440 million CFA francs per year (about 670,000 euros)** in a district under its control. The **Macina Katiba**, JNIM's branch in Mali reportedly also **collects thousands of euros through cattle theft**.

Ansarul Islam, the **Burkinabe branch of the movement**, is estimated to earn between **25 and 30 million CFA francs per month (38,000-45,000 euros)** in the northern part of the country.

**JNIM also controls resale routes:** livestock stolen in one country (e.g., Niger) is often sold in another (Mali), **thereby obscuring the trail**.