

# Blood emeralds fund Pakistan Taliban

Unlike Afghanistan's Taliban, which depends on the opium poppy trade for revenues, Pakistan's Taliban is funding its Jihad from a variety of sources ranging from emerald and marble mining, to timber trading, and the imposition of Jiziya – a poll tax – collected from minority Sikh, Hindu and Christian communities

**Emeralds:** Sold for as little as \$50 per carat. Gems smuggled to Thailand, Switzerland and Israel where cut, polished stones can sell for up to \$100,000 per carat.

**Taliban revenue from conflict emeralds estimated at \$2 million**

**Mines under Taliban control:** 1 – Fizza Gat, Mingora, mine has projected yield of about 13.2 million carats; 2 – Shamoza, Swat; 3 – Gojaro Kalay, Shangla. Taliban pay labourers about \$12 a day – almost twice monthly salary of a local civil servant (\$186)

**Taliban timber trade:** Large-scale illegal cutting of pine forests began with 2007 Taliban offensive. **Government estimates annual loss of \$800m from illegal timber trade.** 4 – Miandam forest; 5 – Malam Jabba, Pakistan's only ski resort destroyed, surrounding pine forests cut down

**Marble quarrying:** 6 – Ziarat white marble quarry. Taliban charge tax of \$7 on each truck load of marble. **Estimated revenue is worth \$15,000 a month**



**Sufi Muhammad:** Radical cleric who struck controversial February deal with Islamabad to enforce Shariah law throughout Malakand division



**Mullah Fazlullah:** Taliban leader in Swat and son-in-law of Sufi. Controls emerald mining

