KABUL - A new investigation has revealed how Afghanistan's multi-billion dollar lapis mines are driving corruption, conflict and violence in the country.

The report, titled “Afghanistan’s Lapis Mines: A Billion-Dollar Industry Fueling Violence,” was released on Monday by Global Witness, a London-based non-governmental organization that investigates the links between international businesses and human rights abuses.

The report found that the lapis mines are one of the biggest sources of revenue for the Taliban, who control the majority of the areas where lapis is mined.

“Taliban use lapis mines to finance their war and to pay for the salaries of their fighters,” said Paul Rascle, the deputy director of the organization. “They are a strategic priority for the Taliban.”

According to the report, lapis mines are a major source of income for the Taliban, with the group earning up to $20 million per year from the sale of lapis.

“I have heard of some Taliban leaders who earn $20 million a year from the lapis mines,” said a local resident who asked not to be named.

The report also found that lapis mines are a major source of revenue for the government, with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry earning $2 million per year from the sale of lapis.

“Taliban collect taxes and the government does not take action, people are forced to do whatever the Taliban order,” said a local resident.

However, the government has taken steps to reduce the influence of the Taliban in the lapis mines.

In February, the government announced a plan to nationalize the lapis mines, including the country’s largest mine in Badakhshan province.

“Taliban control the lapis mines, but the government has the power to control them,” said a local official.

However, the government has also faced criticism for its role in the lapis mines.

“Taliban are not the only ones who benefit from the lapis mines,” said a local resident.

The government has also been criticized for its failure to address the issue of corruption in the lapis mines.

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