

SEMINAR

# Violent extremist groups and illicit economies in West Africa

Date: 7 May 2024

Time: 11h00 – 13h00 (GMT+1) / 12h00 – 14h00 (GMT+2)

Venue: Online via Zoom

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As violent extremism increases across the Sahel and spreads south into West Africa's littoral states, illicit economies are sustaining terror groups' operations and finances. In southern Mali, Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) is exploiting opportunities for timber logging, cattle rustling and illicit taxation. In northern Benin, the group uses various types of kidnapping – primarily for strategic rather than financial gains.

This seminar explores the different but often overlapping objectives of violent extremist groups involved in illicit economies.

*Simultaneous English-French interpretation will be provided.*

**Moderator:** Dr Feyi Ogunade, Regional Organised Crime Observatory Coordinator – West Africa, ENACT, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

**Opening remarks:** Representatives of ECOWAS and the European Union

**Panelists:**

- Nanténé Seck Coulibaly, Senior Analyst, Crime and Criminality, Early Warning Directorate, ECOWAS Commission (TBC)
- Flore Berger, Senior Analyst, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GITOC)
- Dr Ndubuisi Christian Ani, Senior Researcher and Project Coordinator, ENACT, ISS
- Dr Aziz Mossi, Researcher, University of Parakou and LASDEL, Benin

[Register to attend online](#)