

Conspiracy Theories Kill And Cripple On Schedule

A few months ago we reported on a lunatic conspiracy theory adopted by the Islamist authorities in Kano, northern Nigeria: **Islamism, Lunatic Conspiracy Theories, And Death**. Their holy men had told them that that the polio vaccine donated by America had been poisoned in a plot to sterilise Nigerian Muslims. We remarked:

Conspiracy theories kill. And cripple.

Unfortunately, this is now **happening** in Kano:

An outbreak of polio has hit children in the Nigerian state of Kano. Kano is one of the Muslim states that had boycotted the use of the polio vaccine. Many Muslim states in Nigeria banned the polio vaccine because those in charge said the Americans were using the vaccines to make their population infertile. Many of them said the vaccine would also be used to spread AIDS in the region. Despite appeals from neighbouring countries to vaccinate its population, the conspiracy theorists in Nigeria got their way.

Now, as expected, polio is beginning to spread among children in the region. Now the local authorities are appealing for urgent assistance.

What sort of assistance do they mean? Regime change? Well, they're not going to get that as a gift from the West. Nor would it be right if they did. Yet nothing less can prevent such obscenities – and far worse ones – from happening again. And again. It is a terrible shame.

Sat, 07/03/2004 - 23:22 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)