

Conspiracy theories emerge that Hurricane Ida was manufactured | First Draft News

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Hurricane Ida, which made landfall in southeast Louisiana on August 29, killed at least five people, leveled homes and left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity. Although scientists believe that hurricanes and storms are becoming more severe because of climate change, some familiar tropes of climate denialism and other conspiracy theories have resurfaced on social media.

After Ida, a Category 4 hurricane, swept through the Gulf of Mexico, an important oil and gas manufacturing region for the US, a Telegram channel that often amplifies conspiracy theories baselessly alleged these facilities were in fact producing the chemical adrenochrome from human blood. The claim harks back to a centuries-old anti-semitic conspiracy theory that alleges “global elites” torture children to harvest adrenochrome and stay young. The conspiracy theory has gained popularity in extremist circles since last year. The Telegram post has at least 80,000 views and has been amplified by other accounts, including a QAnon-connected one with 223,000 subscribers.

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