

## Chinese whispers

Friday, 20 November 2015

One of the many negative effects of Social Media and Online gossip has been misinformation - Chinese whispers we used to call it.

Appropriate today when the Mali siege instantly features stories about Chinese hostages in the hotel.

During the Paris incident thousands online (such as the ghastly Twitter) wondered why the attack in Kenya wasn't making the news, ignorant of the fact that the Garissa siege had taken place in April. Conspiracy theorists then decided Western media ignores further away attacks. For hours, days, the Internet seethed with hatred for racist, bigoted media.

I do sometimes wonder how many brain cells have gone missing this century in our species.