

400 new Alzheimer's patients identified in Iran

An Iranian diagnosed with dementia every 7 minutes

Social Desk

The President of Iran's Alzheimer's Association, Masoumeh Salehi, announced the identification of 400 new Alzheimer's patients in the country, bringing attention to the escalating health crisis. Salehi revealed that over one million Iranians are grappling with dementia, a broad category of cognitive disorders, with Alzheimer's accounting for a staggering 70 percent of these cases. The data suggests that a new individual is diagnosed with this debilitating disease

every seven minutes. Salehi highlighted the exacerbating effects of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic on the Alzheimer's situation. The reduction in social interactions, coupled with heightened stress and anxiety, has significantly contributed to the surge in the number of patients. However, she emphasized that early diagnosis could mitigate the disease's progression, according to IRNA. "Early diagnosis can delay the onset of dementia, particularly Alzheimer's, by up to five years," Salehi stated.

She further noted that Iran ranks third globally in terms of an aging population, making preventive measures and interventions crucial in curbing the incidence rate of dementia.

In a collaborative effort with the country's welfare organization, Salehi announced the commencement of dementia screening in the cities of Qazvin and Yazd. This initiative underscores the importance of early diagnosis and preventive interventions in managing the disease. Salehi elucidated that time-



● IRNA

ly therapeutic interventions, facilitated by early diagnosis, could significantly reduce the economic burden and strain on societal and support systems. She expressed concern over the late diagnosis of cognitive and memory disorders in a large segment of the popu-

lation, which significantly impacts the effectiveness of treatment and recovery. "Late diagnosis limits access to information, treatment, care, and support services, creating numerous challenges for everyone involved, from Alzheimer's patients to families, caregivers, commu-

nities, and health systems," Salehi explained. Salehi urged the Ministry of Health to prioritize the implementation of the National Dementia Document, which has been compiled and approved, to address this pressing health issue effectively.

No one leaves a safe home



Ali Amiri
Staff writer

OPINION

"You have to understand, No one puts their children on a boat Unless the water is safer than the land."

Warsan Shire

In her powerful and poignant poem, 'Home', Warsan Shire, a British-Somali writer born in 1988, explores the heart-wrenching experience of leaving one's home and country as a refugee.

The opening lines, "no one leaves home unless / home is the mouth of a shark", immediately set the tone for the rest of the poem, emphasizing the danger and desperation that drives people to leave their homes and seek ref-



● TIME

uge elsewhere. The poem also highlights the prejudice and discrimination that refugees face when they arrive in their new homes, and some lines reveal the xenophobia and racism that many refugees encounter when they try to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar places. In light of the recent trag-

edy in which a refugee boat sank off the southern coast of Greece, claiming 78 lives with many more probably missing, Shire's poem gains extra significance. As one of the worst such disasters this year, the recent incidents should remind us that today, in the vast expanse of the world's oceans, a tragedy

of epic proportions unfolds, largely unseen and unacknowledged. The plight of refugees, desperate souls fleeing war, persecution, and economic hardship, has become a recurrent nightmare, punctuated by the sinking of their makeshift vessels and the loss of countless lives. This humanitarian crisis, often relegated to the back pages of our collective consciousness, demands our immediate attention and action.

The refugee crisis is not a new phenomenon. It is a recurring theme in the annals of human history, a testament to our collective failure to uphold the principles of justice, equality, and human rights. Yet, the scale and frequency of these maritime tragedies have reached an alarming magnitude. The Mediterranean, once a cradle of civilization, has become

a watery grave for thousands of refugees, their dreams of a better life extinguished in its unforgiving depths.

The international community's response to this crisis has been, at best, tepid. The rhetoric of compassion and solidarity often rings hollow in the face of restrictive immigration policies and the rising tide of xenophobia. The refugees, dehumanized and vilified, are caught in a Kafkaesque nightmare, their pleas for help lost in the cacophony of political posturing and bureaucratic red tape.

What, then, can be done to stem this tide of human suffering? The answer lies in a multi-pronged approach that addresses the root causes of forced migration, enhances the capacity for rescue and resettlement, and fosters a culture of empathy and inclusivity.

First and foremost, the international community must redouble its efforts to resolve the conflicts and economic disparities that drive people to undertake these perilous journeys. This requires a renewed commitment to diplomacy, economic aid, and the promotion of human rights.

Then, the capacity for search and rescue operations in the high-risk migration routes must be bolstered. This includes providing adequate funding and resources to organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

Next, we must challenge the narrative that portrays refugees as a threat to the security and economic stability of destination societies. Refugees are not the architects of their misfortune; they are its victims. They bring with them skills, experiences, and aspirations

that can enrich those societies if given the opportunity.

And last, but not least, a comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes human dignity and the right to asylum must be ceaselessly advocated. This includes creating legal pathways for migration, expediting the processing of asylum applications, and ensuring the humane treatment of refugees.

The refugee crisis is a litmus test of humanity for everyone, everywhere. It is a mirror that reflects our values, our compassion, and our commitment to the ideals of justice and human rights.

Turning a blind eye to the suffering of our fellow human beings should bring us nothing but shame. Twenty-first century humankind should better rise to the challenge and transform this tragedy into a testament to its capacity for empathy, solidarity, and action.

PIC OF THE DAY

Yazd Effluent Lagoon, created by the Yazd Wastewater Treatment Plant, is a stunning wetland located just four kilometers north of the historic city of Yazd. With a length of three kilometers and surrounded by reeds, this unique destination has become a temporary home for winter migratory birds. Now a popular tourist spot, visitors can spend the night and stargaze under the beautiful Yazd sky.



● MAJID JARRAHI/IRNA