

## Letter to the Editor

**Dental Disaster Squad: Necessity of the Hour in Iran**

*Dear Editor,*

Disasters may be natural (earth quakes, Tsunami), accidental (airline, train) or man-made (terrorist attacks, bombings).<sup>1</sup> Iran ranks among countries suffering from the highest number of earthquake disasters.<sup>2</sup> In Iran, dental professionals are considered as third degree team in disaster management.<sup>3</sup> A third degree team is defined as, “an elementary team without the essential facilities, equipment or personnel for a total team, but their personnel can be used as a substitute for other teams position”.<sup>3</sup> Dental professionals play an important role in identification of individuals in disasters by comparative dental identification and reconstructive dental identification.<sup>4</sup> DNA profiling of teeth through molecular techniques also aids in identification in disasters.<sup>5</sup> It is also advisable to follow the Indonesian disaster victim identification model in the dental disaster squad.<sup>6</sup> In the present scenario of disaster management, dental professionals in Iran should be upgraded from third degree team to first degree team.

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