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**ROLE OF FORENSIC DENTISTS AT DVI CASES
IN TURKEY**

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Forensic odontology has three major areas of utilization: diagnostic and therapeutic examination and evaluation of injuries to jaws, teeth, and oral soft tissues; the identification of individuals particularly in mass disasters; bite mark analysis particularly in assault cases. Identification process of human remains is a process with difficulties. Developments in techniques and technological advances for identification process resulted in an increase in success rate, but there still exists insufficiencies. Dental records are important especially in identification of mass fatality victims and age determinations. Forensic dentists play an important role on the Identification in mass disasters. Identification from dental records can be carried out quickly and inexpensively. Forensic dentists should take an active role in DVI teams. Unfortunately, there are not enough forensic dentists in Turkey. Training programs on forensic odontology should be popularised and enlarged. DVI teams must have a good education & training, and have the opportunity to move immediately to the scene. Standardized forms and appliances must be used. For dental medicine, a Standard approach must be established for dental records. By on –line information network, access to all dental records must be facilitated. All the information about the health status and radiographs must be stored in a digital environment. Due to the increase in the number of traveling people, the possibility of remains belonging to a person reported to be missing from a point far away is increased.. At national level, a database system for all missing people must be established, and linkage with identification centers must be formed. In recent five dvi cases in Turkey, forensic dentistry was practiced. However, there were organizational issues due to the inefficiency of forensic dentistry field in the country and the lacking number of bite mark records. Training an enough number of dvi units would prevent further problems which may occur in future mass fatalities and provide better results in criminal cases.

KEYWORDS: Forensic Odontology, Disaster victim identification, Turkey