

The Measurements of the Iranian Armed Forces in Confronts of the Unprecedented Crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alireza Jalali-Farahani ¹, Hadi Shirzad ², Seyed-Reza Hosseini-Zijoud ^{1 *}

¹ Atherosclerosis Research Center, Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

² Research Institute of Police Science & Social Studies, Tehran, Iran

³ Clinical Research Development Unit, Imam Hossein Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

*** Corresponding Author:** Seyed Reza Hosseini Zijoud, Clinical Research Development Unit, Imam Hossein Hospital, Madani Street, Tehran, Iran. E-mail: Hosseini7sr@gmail.com

Received August 14, 2020; Accepted September 6, 2020; Online Published March 5, 2021

Keywords: COVID-19, Armed Forces, Crisis, Iran

Dear Editor

The Iranian Armed Forces play an essential role in managing the crisis caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. Their expertise, constant readiness, and scientific and logistical capabilities have made major contributions in controlling the present and previous crisis. In the past, the Iranian Armed Forces have worked closely with the Ministry of Health to eradicate polio and vaccinate measles and rubella, serving the people and officials in many crises such as floods and earthquakes.¹ At present, they have been working closely with the Ministry of Health and the community to overcome the current crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Actually, the Iranian Armed Forces have contributed by activating bio-defense and disinfecting roads, streets, shopping centers, etc., and giving out training brochures to people. Following the country's involvement in the pandemic, police have been dealing with potential profiteers discovering mask depots and disinfectant hoards. Highway police are working to control the entrances and exits of the cities to manage the spread of Covid-19. While providing security and maintaining public order, police are cooperating to close down public facilities, gathering places, cinemas, concerts, stadiums, etc.

From the beginning of the crisis, the Iranian Cyber Police have tried to ensure the psychological security of the community by exposing websites and channels which have spread rumors and false news.

The Iranian Armed Forces are also utilizing their

industrial capacity to produce sanitary and disinfectant materials and some items such as masks and protective clothing for hospitals medical staff. The forces have also developed the diagnostic kits which have been considered as another important step during this crisis.

The Iranian Armed Forces is preparing its medical units, clinics and mobile hospitals in various areas infected with Covid-19 to reduce some of the burden on the country's health care system devoting more than 70 percent of their hospital capacity to admitting patients with Covid-19. Another part of the Iranian Armed Forces' service is related to rehabilitation centers with more than 20,000 rehabilitation beds throughout the country. The Iranian Armed Forces screened 70 million people with the 4030 phone number for Covid-19 and its clinical manifestations. Some of Iranian Armed Forces, due to declining public referrals and declining blood bank reserves, have been moved to blood donation centers and are taking steps to combat Covid-19 by donating blood.²

The main goal of these activities is to provide health and develop hope in the Iranian society. However, none of these measures are independent and all measures are carried out under the supervision and coordination of the Ministry of Health and relevant institutions.

The efforts of the Iranian Armed Forces will come to fruition when the people are sympathetic and take health recommendations and warnings seriously and act on them. People must stay at home and voluntarily

quarantine. This is actually because, according to the guidelines of pioneer countries in the fight against infectious diseases, the most effective way to limit the spread of Covid-19 is for people to voluntary home quarantine.³

As the Iranian Armed Forces provide their capacity and facilities in the crisis of Covid-19 they may interact with SARS-CoV-2 carriers, and will be at risk of infection. The infections and deaths from Covid-19 among these personnel confirm this statement.

It is hoped that the cooperation of the medical and military personnel along with the other institutions and the sympathy and support of the people will successfully control and effectively end the Covid-19 crisis in Iran and the world.

Ethical Approval

Not applicable. This is a letter to editor that does not need any study approval.

Authors' Contributions

SRHZ wrote the manuscript. AJF and HS provided advice in the content and comments for improvement.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding/Support

Not applicable.

Acknowledgement

None.

Availability of data and materials

Not applicable.

References

1. Moghadam M, Afsarkazerooni P, Ebrahimi M, Soltani M, Razmipoor A, Pirasteh E, Mirah-Madizadeh A. Measles outbreak in South of Iran, where vaccine coverage was high: a case-series study. *Iranian journal of public health*. 2014;43(3):375.
2. Jalali Farahahni A, Ebrahimnia M, Hosseini Zijoud SR. Non-Governmental and Voluntary Groups, Collaborators in the Fight against COVID-19. *Journal Mil Med*. 2020;22(2):98-9. doi:[10.30491/MM.22.2.98](https://doi.org/10.30491/MM.22.2.98)
3. Nikpouraghdam M, Farahani AJ, Alishiri G, Heydari S, Ebrahimnia M, Samadinia H, et al. Epidemiological characteristics of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients in IRAN: A single center study. *J Clin Virol*. 2020;127:104378. doi:[10.1016/j.jcv.2020.104378](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcv.2020.104378)