

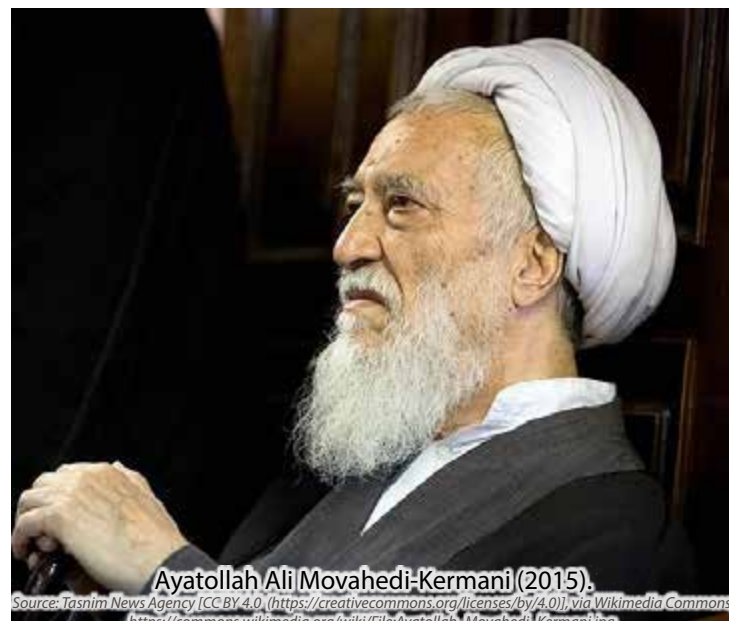


The Range of Iranian Missiles

OE Watch Commentary: When the Iranian government negotiated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which became United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, it sought to draw a line between Iran's nuclear program and its ballistic missile program. While critics of the JCPOA identify the lack of constraints on ballistic missiles as a flaw, Iranian diplomats have sought to assuage that it exists only for defensive purposes and that Iran would self-limit ballistic missile productions to those with a range under 1,200 miles.

For years, Iran's clerics have preached sermons undercutting these diplomatic assurances, as illustrated in a recent article from *Defa Press*. By delivering his remarks at the weekly Friday sermon in Tehran, in which capacity he was speaking on behalf of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mohammed Ali Movahedi-Kermani suggested that Iranian missiles are geared predominantly to target both American interests in the region and Israel. That Movahedi-Kermani spoke about American bases but did not differentiate between Israeli military targets and cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa suggests that, to the Iranian regime, all Israeli targets are legitimate. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

“Your enemies have weapons and bases but, because they do not have God, they will fail.”



Source: “Niru-haye va Tajhizat-e Amrika-ye dar Tiras-e Mushakha-ye Irani Hastand (American forces and equipment are within range of Iranian missiles),” *Defa Press*, 24 August 2018. <https://goo.gl/ELrFe5>

Ayatollah Mohammed Ali Movahedi Kermani, in the Tehran Friday prayer sermon that was held in the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini this week, regarding the necessity of believers to maintain their piety, said, piety and good virtue solves the problems in human life, and whomever has piety, God makes his bad deeds good and increases his rewards.... The Friday Prayer leader said that, according to the Imam [Khomeini], peace be upon him, America could never do anything right, and added, “Your enemies have weapons and bases but, because they do not have God, they will fail.” He continued, “The leader of the revolution has made many statements in this regard, that America cannot attack us. These statements were factual because the leader wanted those who fear America to understand that they will never be able to engage with us, and there will never be a war.”

Ayatollah Movahedi Kermani reiterated, “Trump is angry at the useless expenditures made in the region, and it is one of their policies that they want to receive the price of security.” He argued the Americans will not dare to attack Iran because they know what would come next and said, “There are thousands of forces in Syria and Lebanon alongside missiles which can fly over Israel and destroy Tel Aviv or Haifa.”

The Tehran Friday Prayer leader said, “Today, Iran is at the helm of Israel and even the tiniest sting by Israel or the United States will lead to very bad consequences for them... The same missiles worry them and they don’t have a comfortable sleep... because today tens of thousands of American forces the Persian Gulf and Persian countries are within range of Iran’s missiles.”

