

MIDDLE EAST

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Stage Second Day of Missile Tests

By **THOMAS ERDBRINK** MARCH 9, 2016

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of Iran conducted a second successive day of missile tests on Wednesday, saying two rockets had successfully hit targets over 850 miles away.

The missiles were launched from the eastern part of the Alborz mountain range that hugs the Caspian Sea in northern Iran, the semiofficial news agency Tasnim reported.

The head of the Revolutionary Guards' missile program, Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, said the rockets had a range of about 1,200 miles and were capable of hitting the "Zionist regime," Iran's name for its archenemy Israel, the semiofficial news agency Mehr reported.

Another semiofficial news outlet, Fars, reported that the missiles had text written on them in Hebrew, saying, "Israel must be wiped off the map." On images said to be of the launch, there was no such text visible on either of the two missiles.

The second day of tests seems to be aimed at provoking an Israeli reaction, and it also appears to be a message to Saudi Arabia, Iran's other regional rival, not to threaten the Islamic republic, analysts say.