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Lateral structure variations and transient swarm revealed by seismicity along the Main Himalayan Thrust north of Kathmandu

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Title: Lateral structure variations and transient swarm revealed by seismicity along the

Main Himalayan Thrust North of Kathmandu

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ABSTRACT

The midcrustal seismicity along the Main Himalayan Thrust in Nepal presents lateral

variations along the rupture of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. In order to resolve these

variations, we relocate the seismicity north of Kathmandu, during a period well covered by

the Nepal National Seismological Network, using a double-difference algorithm. The 550

relocated events highlight a complex pattern of clustered seismicity within the unstable-

stable transition zone. Part of the seismicity is densely clustered on a southward dipping

plane which ruptured on January 31st 1997 (ML=5.8), activating a backthrust with a

geometry consistent with the centroid moment tensor of this event calculated in this study.

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