

Learning from Earthquakes

M6.4 Earthquakes Strike Pakistan

Two M6.4 earthquakes struck Pakistan about 12 hours apart on October 29, 2008 (local time). The epicenters were located in Baluchistan Province, about 60 km north of Quetta. Preliminary news reports have characterized the second event as an aftershock.

Earthquakes in Pakistan are the result of the northward movement of the Indian Plate into the Eurasian Plate. The city of Quetta was severely damaged in 1935 by a M7.6 earthquake on the Chaman fault. The October 29 earthquakes were located 80 km east of this fault, suggesting that other strike-slip faults are present beneath the fold-and-thrust belt of this region.

The first earthquake occurred early in the morning, collapsing thousands of mud-brick houses, causing massive landslides, and killing more than 300 people. Army planes began flying in emergency relief supplies, but some 40,000 people remain homeless in near-freezing temperatures. The earthquake and aftershocks are having devastating consequences to an area already in political and religious turmoil.



M 6.4 Pakistan, Earthquakes of 28-29 October 2008

