

Seismicity of the Northwestern Region of Libya: An Example of Continental Seismicity

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INTRODUCTION

Libya is situated on the Mediterranean foreland of the African Shield; its seismicity and tectonics reflect the geological history of the north African craton. Libya is not considered a highly active seismic region (Gutenberg and Richter 1965). However, several earthquakes of magnitude > 6.0 have occurred in Libya during the past century. A number of authors have investigated the seismicity and seismotectonics of Libya (Seiberg 1932; Minami 1963; Gordan and Engdahl 1963; Campbell 1968; Goodchild 1968; Kebeasy 1980; Westway 1990; Suleiman and Doser 1994; Al-Heety and Eshwehdi 2004). These investigations show that seismic activity in Libya is documented back to A.D. 262 and A.D. 365, when two large events destroyed the ancient city of Cyrene.