

Interactive comment on “Characteristics of surface damage in China during the 25 April 2015 Nepal earthquake” by Zhonghai Wu et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The manuscript is presented as a “brief summary” (quoting) of surface effects in China associated with the 2015 Gorkha earthquake (Mw 7.8) in Nepal. The authors show a set of photographs with impressive destruction of buildings, landslides and rockfalls. Their aim is to show the severity of earthquake damage and related seismic intensity in the nearby southern Tibetan region. Moreover, they suggest a correlation with local active normal faults in the region.

Although pictures of earthquake damage are impressive and images of investigated sites in figure 4 may refer to detailed field investigations, the damage distribution in this manuscript is particularly poorly presented. The text suffers of several unclear statements and several paragraphs need to be rewritten.

My major criticism is on the authors approach on the seismic damage evaluation. In-

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tensities are assigned throughout the manuscript but no intensity scale (MMI? MSK? EMS 98?) is presented for their damage evaluation. No information is given on how the evaluation of seismic intensity is conducted and if they used any intensity form for their damage investigations.

The correlation between the geological effects (surface damage) and normal faulting is often hard to follow. Interpretations are mixed with observations and no evidence of coseismic normal faulting that could support their inferences on surface damage distribution is presented in this so called “brief summary”.

I think that this manuscript cannot be accepted for publication in NHES.

Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2018-195>, 2018.