



Paper: Fernando et al
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1. SEISMIC CONTEXT

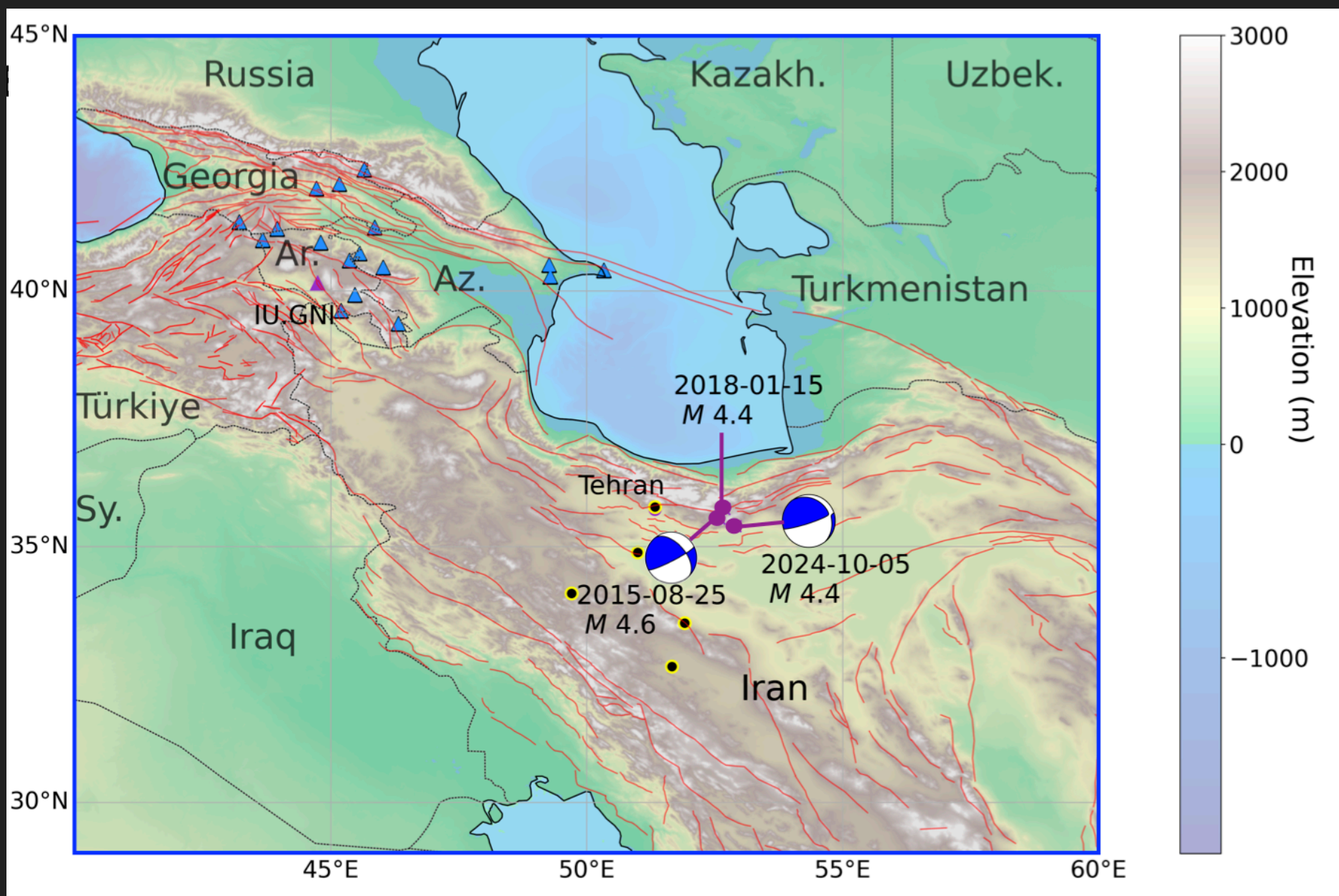
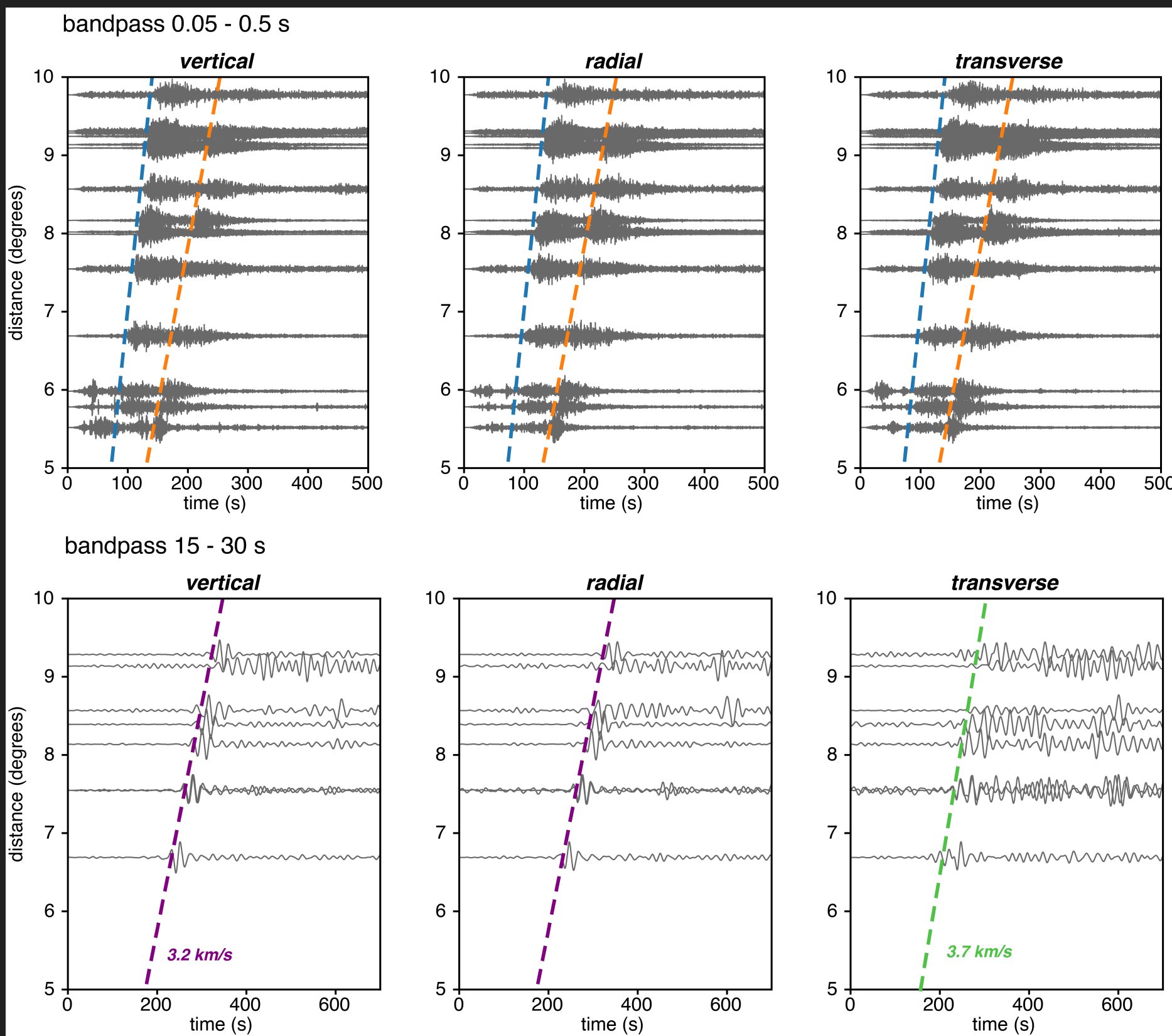


FIG 1: Top: seismic data, as recorded at stations across the Caucasus region. **Bottom:** tectonic and geographic context, plus GCMT-inverted moment tensors for this event and a nearby and similar one in 2015.

2. SPECULATION



FIG 2: Within half an hour of the event (at 15:15 ET) the first tweets are posted speculating that this may not have been an earthquake. We examined Tweets in English, Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew.

3. MISINFORMATION

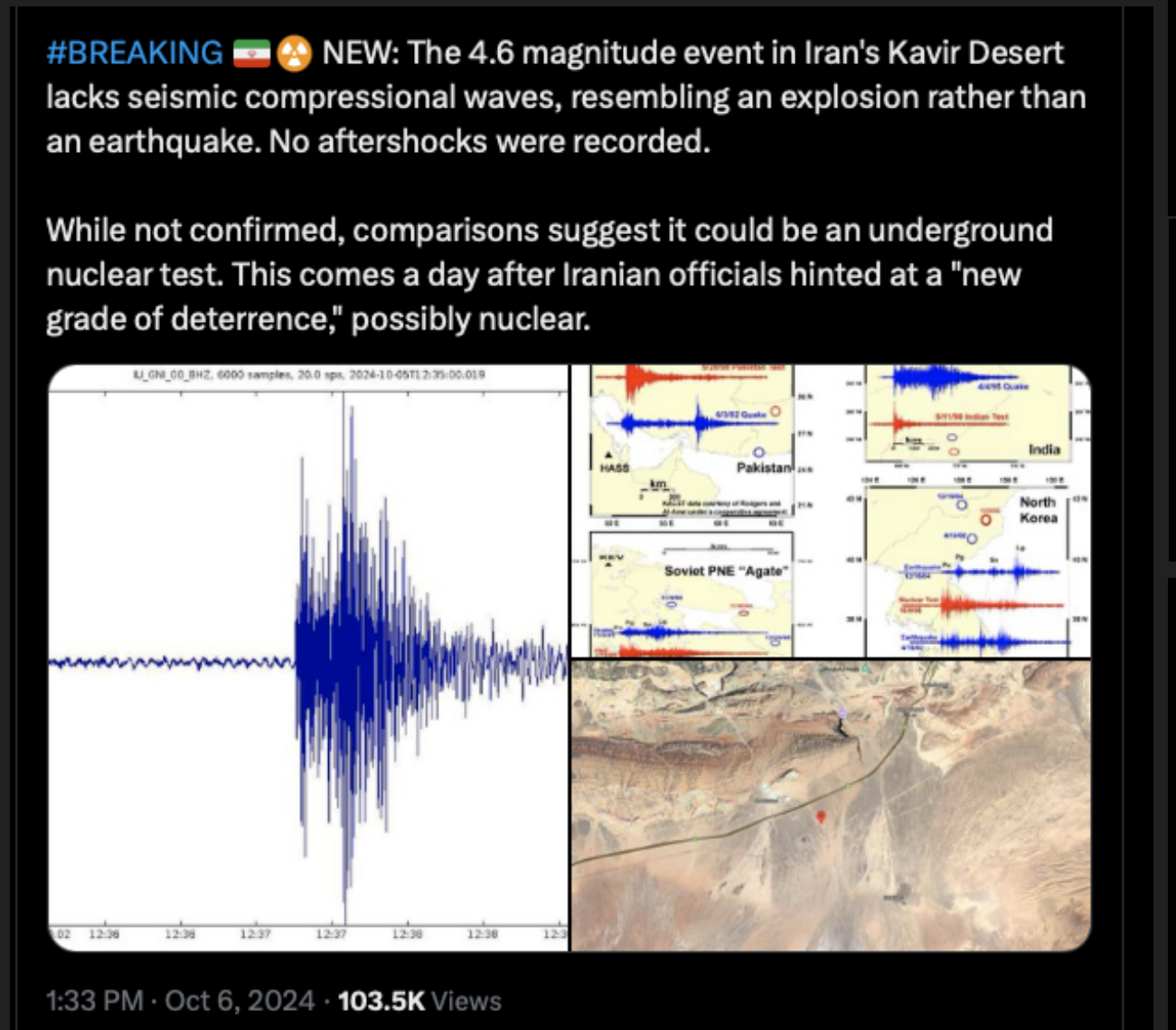
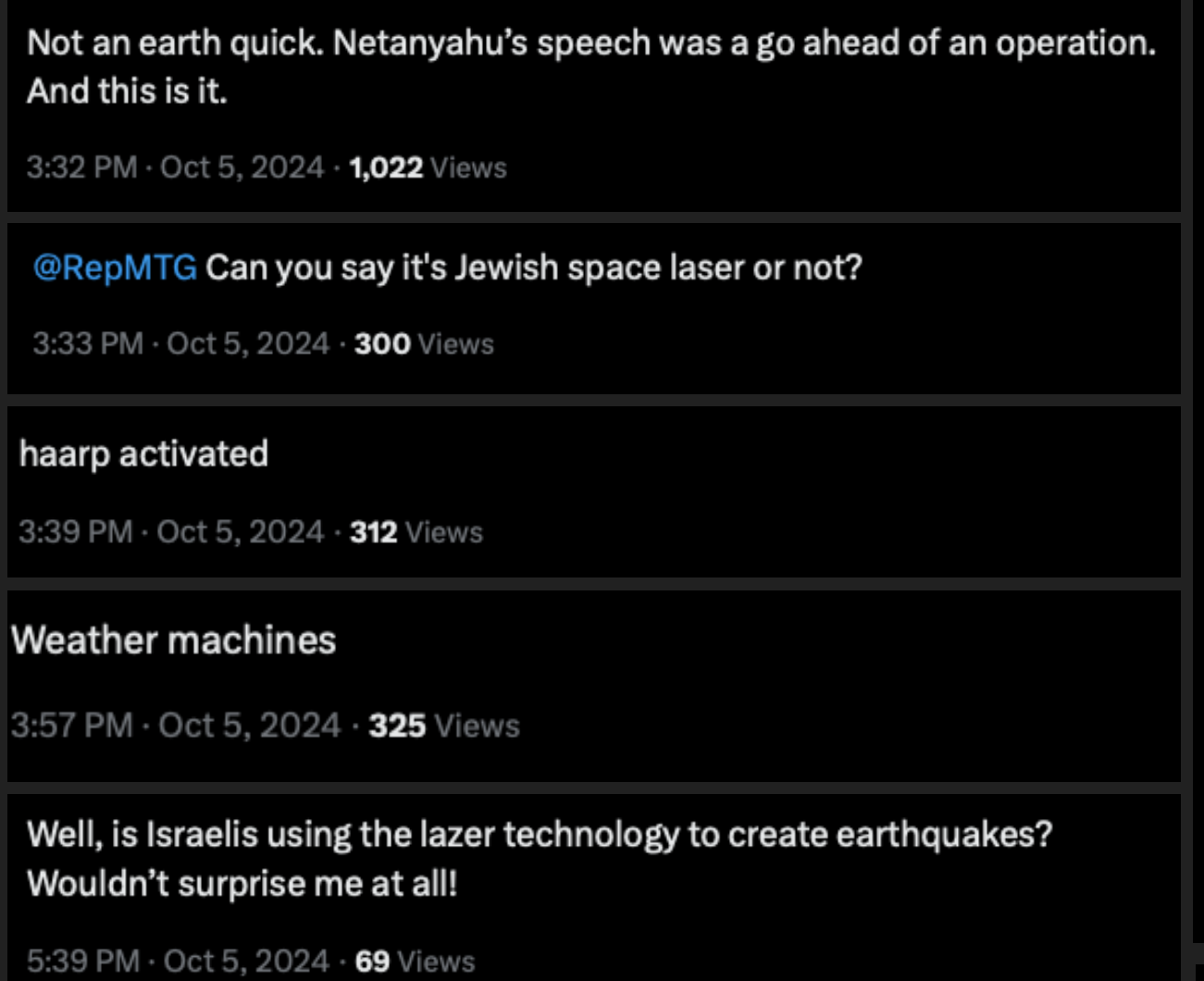


FIG 3: Tweets rapidly escalated to misinformation, referencing a range of conspiracy theories and purporting links to the war in Gaza.

4. DISINFORMATION

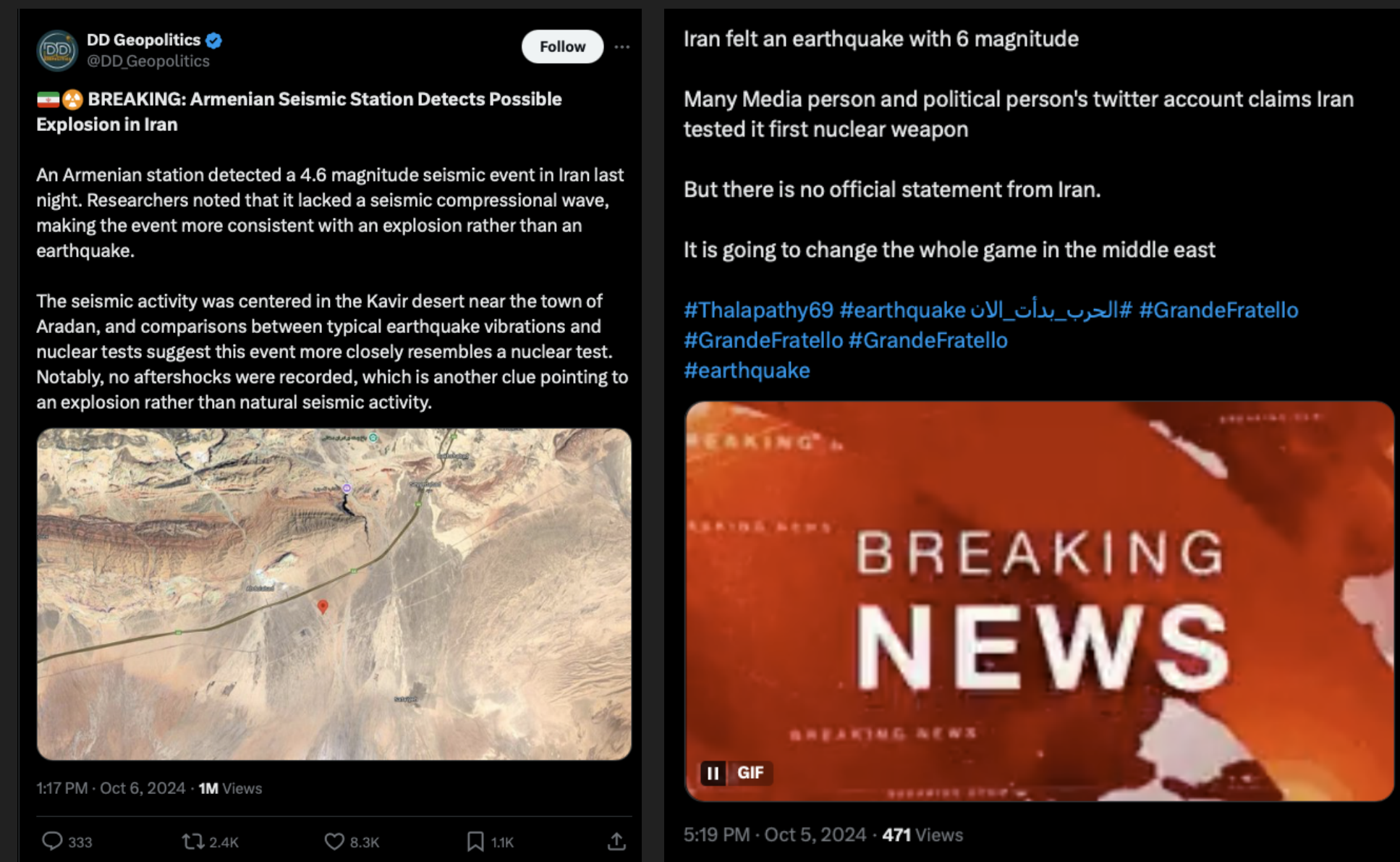


FIG 4: Disinformation accounts linked posted about this event (left) and others emulated the logos of reputable organisations (right).

5. FALSE ALERT TRIGGERING

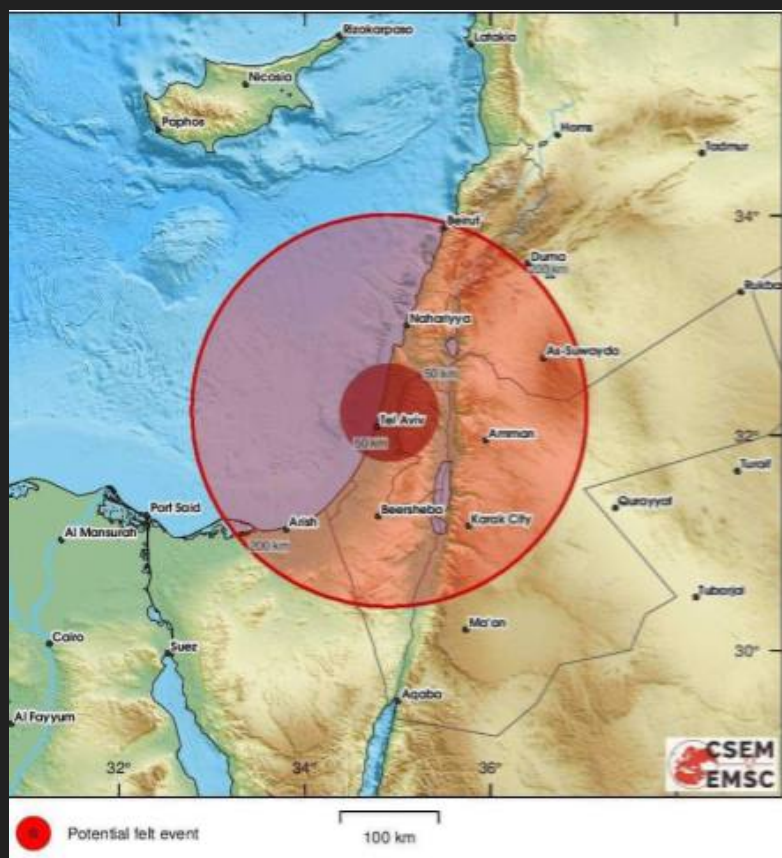


FIG 5: When news of this event broke, a spike in searches about triggered a false crowd-sourced alert for an earthquake in Israel. Although this was withdrawn 15 minutes later, by this point it had already become part of the conspiracy theory narrative.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve reporting of unconstrained **fixing depths** to reduce confusion surrounding “10km” events
- Consider **rapid-response moment tensor solutions** for sensitive regions below current threshold magnitudes
- Explore **geo-location exclusions** for earthquake alerts generated by social media/web traffic