

OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

# **Daily Report 213/2021**

11 September 2021<sup>1</sup>

#### Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 193 ceasefire violations, including 95 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 176 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 348 ceasefire violation in the region.
- The Mission followed up on damage to an uninhabited house in non-government-controlled Donetsk city.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure and a transfer of funds from nongovernment- to government-controlled areas in Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited a border crossing point outside government control and monitored an area near the border with the Russian Federation in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.\*



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 10 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.



Map of recorded ceasefire violations

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 193 ceasefire violations, including 95 explosions (20 impacts and 75 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly and easterly directions of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk). In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded 176 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded 348 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the Mission has recorded at least 56,652 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 15,862 explosions, 10,917 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 225 illumination flares and at least 29,378 bursts and shots).

#### Damage to a house in non-government-controlled Donetsk

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to a house in the north-western part of Donetsk city's Kyivskyi district (non-government-controlled, 5km north of Donetsk city centre).

At 62 Stratonavtiv Street, about 2m north-north-west of the entrance gate to the garden of an uninhabited single-storey house and about 450m from the closest position of the armed formations, the Mission observed a crater (50cm in diameter) in the ground, assessed as recent and caused by a 120mm mortar round. The SMM was unable to assess the direction of fire.

#### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them).

The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two flights over the southern edge of the disengagement area.\*

On the night of 9-10 September, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (governmentcontrolled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded one projectile in flight at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (nongovernment-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), as well as ten projectiles in flight at an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

assessed range of 2-4km south-east, unable to be assessed as inside or outside the area. On the same night, the SMM camera in Petrivske recorded two projectiles in flight, assessed as inside the disengagement area, as well as one projectile in flight, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

During the day on 10 September, while positioned at three locations close to the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

#### Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw 29 howitzers, 13 tanks, five anti-tank guns, two anti-tank guided missile systems and one mortar, all in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including at a railway station. (For further information, see the table below.)

### Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn<sup>6</sup>

At a heavy weapons holding area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region 10 September 2021

The SMM noted that 12 self-propelled howitzers (2S7 *Pion*, 203mm) were present, and that 11 self-propelled howitzers (2S7 *Pion*, 203mm) were missing, compared to the previous visit on 4 December 2019.

#### Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone

The Mission saw two armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas, including near a residential area. In non-government controlled areas, it saw one probable armoured combat vehicle and one anti-aircraft gun (in a residential area). (For further information, see the table below.)

While positioned on the eastern edge of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw two soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, one of them holding a control panel with an antenna attached to it, and a box on the ground nearby.

# SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure and a transfer of funds

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard one explosion (impact of an undetermined weapon), assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable a transfer of funds from non-government- to government-controlled areas across the bridge in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), reportedly related to water payments.

#### Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

While at the EECP, the SMM again observed workers conducting works to replace a fence and assemble metal structures. (For previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 10 September 2021</u>.)

The Mission noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia were open, but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

#### Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 50 minutes, the SMM observed two cars (including one with "DPR" plates), three covered cargo trucks (with "DPR" plates) and 23 people (11 women and ten men, mixed ages, and two teenage boys) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also saw 18 cars (including seven with "DPR" plates and one with "LPR" plates), one bus (with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and six people (three women and three men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.<sup>7</sup>

The Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation close to Chervona Zoria (84km east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

# \*Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate

The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Minsk agreements have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the government (for example, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 1</u> <u>September 2021</u>). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb</u>; these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

#### Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

#### Other impediments:8

An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming over areas near Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km south of Donetsk).
SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during 14 flights: thrice over areas near Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk); twice over areas near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), Dyliivka (government-controlled, 52km north of Donetsk), Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), respectively; as well as once over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

# Table of weapons

# Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation			
Government-controlled areas							
9/9/2021	2	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P148 Konkurs, 135mm)	Near Novoolenivka (48km north-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV			
10/9/2021	5	Tank (T-64)	Near Hryhorivka (formerly Leninske, 46km north-west of Donetsk)				
	5		At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of				
	12	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm)	Donetsk), where the Mission also saw 44 armoured combat	Patrol			
	6	Towed howitzer (D-30 Lyagushka, 122mm)	vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns.9				
	1	Towed mortar (2B9 Vasilek, 82mm)					
	5	Anti-tank guns (MT-12 Rapira, 100mm)	Near Khlibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)				
	11	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)					
	3	Tank (two T-64 and one T-72)	Near Pryvilne (72km south of Donetsk)				

# Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>10</sup>

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation		
Government-controlled areas						
10/9/2021	1	A management and the (DTD 70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol		
10/9/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near a residential area of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	ratrol		
Non-government-controlled areas						
8/9/2021	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV		
9/9/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, 50km west of Luhansk)	Patrol		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

### Table of ceasefire violations as of 10 September 2021<sup>11</sup>

SMM position	<b>Event location</b>	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE (unable to assess if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	10-Sep, 00:10
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of	2-4km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SW to NE (unable to assess if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	10-Sep, 00:10
Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	10-Sep, 00:10
	2-4km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (unable to assess if inside or outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	10-Sep, 03:52
	300-500m WNW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Sep, 01:49
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government- controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	300-500m WNW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	10-Sep, 01:49
controlled, 41kill S of Dolletsk)	300-500m WNW	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area, also recorded by the SMM camera in Bohdanivka)	N/K	10-Sep, 01:49
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	10-Sep, 02:39
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government- controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km WSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Maiorsk)	N/K	10-Sep, 03:24
About 1km SW of Vesele (non-government-	1km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 10:33
controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	2-3km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 10:33
About 2km W of Yasynuvata (non- government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	10-Sep, 14:05
Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of	3-5km NE	Heard	19	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 13:17- 13:19
Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	3	Burst		N/K	10-Sep, 13:17- 13:19
	3-5km NE	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 13:50
About 3.5km WNW of Korsun (non- government-controlled, 31km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 12:00
About 1km W of Talakivka (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 13:20
	1-2km ENE	Heard	6	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	10-Sep, 11:16 11:20
	1-2km ENE	Heard	6	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	10-Sep, 11:16 11:20
	3-4km NE	Heard	20	Burst		Small arms	10-Sep, 11:25 11:30
	3-4km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 11:33
About 1km NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 11:40 11:42
Solitonida, yykin o or Donotsky	3-4km NE	Heard	8	Burst		HMG	10-Sep, 11:40 11:42
	1-2km ENE	Heard	6	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	10-Sep, 11:44 11:48
	1-2km ENE	Heard	6	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	10-Sep, 11:44- 11:48
	1-2km ENE	Heard	15	Burst		HMG	10-Sep, 11:44- 11:48
About 2 5km SE of Labedrander (managed)	3-5km NE	Heard	5	Shot		N/K	10-Sep, 13:01
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Heard	7	Explosion	Impact	N/K	10-Sep, 13:20 13:25

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an "N/K"), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

SMM position	<b>Event location</b>	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	2-4km NNE	Heard	23	Burst		HMG	10-Sep, 13:30- 13:40
	2-4km NNE	Heard	22	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Sep, 13:30- 13:40
	2-4km NNE	Heard	9	Shot		Small arms	10-Sep, 13:30- 13:40
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Sep, 23:41- 23:45



Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>12</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff have temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States, as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).