

Daily Report 180/2020

30 July 2020¹

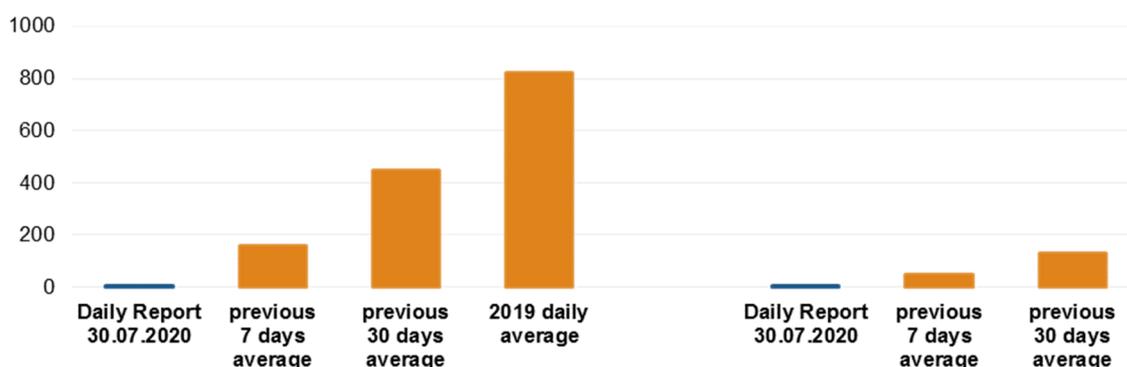
Summary

- The SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in Donetsk region (compared with ten in the previous reporting period) and again no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region.
- From 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM recorded a total of 122 ceasefire violations.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle observed people inside the latter two disengagement areas during evening hours.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 29 July 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

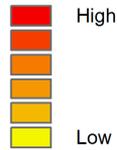


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 July 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 30/07/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion east-south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded ten explosions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations for the third consecutive day.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM recorded a total of 122 ceasefire violations, all in Donetsk region (including 32 explosions and 90 bursts and shots of small-arms-fire).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 29 July, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and their checkpoint south of it.

On the evening of 28 July, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces north of the railway track and about 600m west of road T-1316, as well as three more inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west-south-west of its north-western corner. Also inside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted two people within former positions of the armed formations about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 29 July, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), all of whom were walking along road T-1316 inside the area up to about 350m north of its southern edge accompanied by three persons in hazmat suits. At this location, three people wearing hazmat suits were seen spraying a disinfecting substance from a canister onto four SMM vehicles which were traveling towards non-government-controlled areas.

On the night of 28-29 July, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 100m north from its southern edge and 1.5km east of its western edge. It also spotted three people inside former positions of the armed formations near its south-eastern corner.

On 29 July, while positioned at two 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.

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁶

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in the security zone in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to power and gas lines in government-controlled Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk) and Troitske (69km west of Luhansk); the assessment and maintenance of gas lines near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk); and the assessment and maintenance of power lines near Berezhivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) and demining activities near the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter COVID-19 outbreak

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

On 29 July, while at the EECP at 09:00 and 14:20, the Mission saw about 200 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 300 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw that a golf cart was operating between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On the same day, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge at 11:27 and at 12:55, the SMM saw about 190 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 170 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop about 1.8km south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On 28 July, near the same EECP, a 54-year-old man with a missing eye and leg told the SMM that he had spent the night at the EECP after he was prevented from travelling to non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, as his residency was in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. In the evening of the same day, near the EECP, the Mission saw him receiving a food package at the shelter of an international organization and

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

preparing to spend the night there. On 29 July, two men (including the aforesaid man) told the SMM that they had spent the night at the EECP.

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) remained operational but did not see any civilian traffic in either direction.

Peaceful gathering in Dnipro

On 27 July, in Dnipro, the SMM monitored a peaceful gathering of about 200 people (mixed genders and ages) at 1 Oleksandra Polia Avenue, in front of the Dnipro Regional State Administration. The Mission heard participants expressing messages critical of the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group and of the Government's approach towards certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Six police officers secured the site.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, 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 and 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 Package of Measures 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 Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed 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 [SMM Daily Report of 14 July 2020](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); 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:

- On the night of 28-29 July, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) and Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of military presence in the security zone⁸

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation |
|--|------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 27/07/2020 | 1 | Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) | Near Orikhove (57 north-west of Luhansk) | Mini-UAV |
| 28/07/2020 | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Vodiane (15km north-west of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-2) | Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-2) | Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk) | |
| | 1 | Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) | Near Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV |
| | 2 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) | Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk) | Patrol |
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 28/07/2020 | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Kalynove-Borshchuvate (61km west of Luhansk) | Long-range UAV |

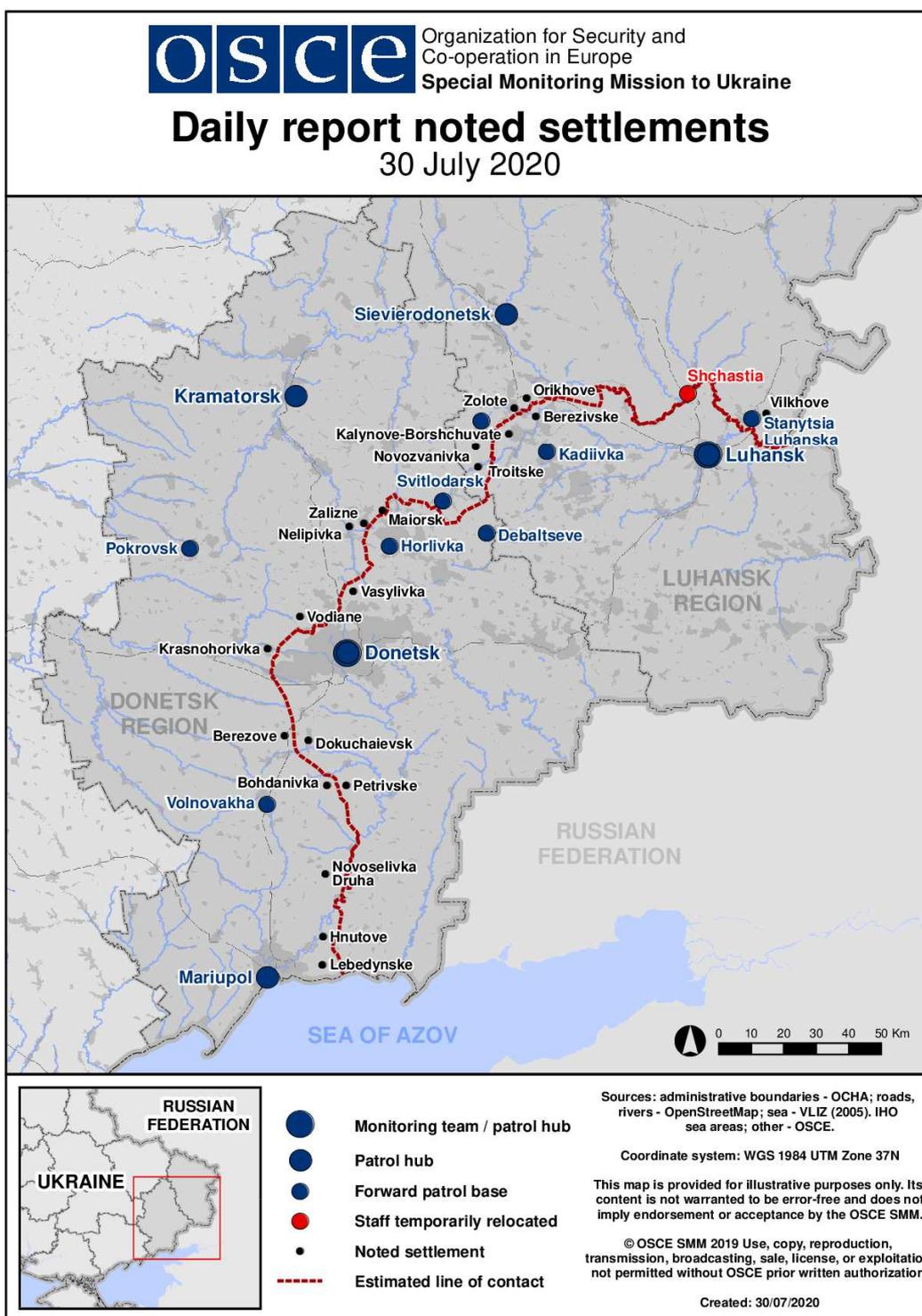
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 29 July 2020⁹

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| About 800m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk) | 4-6km ESE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Jul, 10:40 |

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the 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.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).