



Daily Report 189/2020

10 August 2020¹

Summary

- From 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 256 ceasefire violations.
- In the two-day reporting period, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Including the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations for three consecutive days.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the latter two areas, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle observed people during evening and night hours.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM visited four border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at an entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near Novoazovsk, about 12km west of the border with the Russian Federation.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 9 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²³

Between the evenings of 7 and 9 August, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions, for the third and fourth time since the Mission began systematic data collection.⁴ In the previous reporting period, it also recorded no ceasefire violations. The last ceasefire violations were recorded by the Mission between the evenings of 5-6 August 2020 (see [SMM Daily Report 7 August 2020](#)).

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 has so far recorded a total of 256 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 45 explosions, two projectiles in flight, three illumination flares and 206 bursts and shots of small-arms fire).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 8 and 9 August, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw 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 7 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted four people within former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner. Also inside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted three people within a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge and about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 8 and 9 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom it saw walking inside the disengagement area along road T-1316 up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returning.

On 8 August, outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw 12 workers from non-government-controlled areas on road T-1316, as well as an excavator, a bulldozer and a truck, conducting vegetation clearance works along both sides of the road. On the same day, about 200m south of the aforementioned checkpoint and on the eastern side of road T-1316, it observed a concrete base and a 2m high metal pole. On the following day, it saw six workers from non-government-controlled areas with the aforementioned equipment levelling the soil on both sides of road T-1316 about 500m south of the checkpoint.

On the night of 7-8 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people within former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 2km south of its

² In the reporting period, the SMM did not record ceasefire violations, therefore the report does not contain the chart presenting trends and map of ceasefire violations.

³ During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

⁴ The SMM’s systematic data compilation began on 1 March 2015. Previous ceasefire violation information can be found in daily reports prior to that date.

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

northern edge and about 1.5km east of its western edge. Also inside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted two people within a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 8 and 9 August, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area near Petrivske, 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.

The Mission saw four multiple launch rocket systems, three self-propelled mortars and a surface-to-air missile system in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region and a multiple launch rocket system in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, all in violation of withdrawal lines. It also saw a tank beyond withdrawal lines but outside of a designated storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further details, see the tables below).

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At a heavy weapons holding area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region
8 August

The SMM noted that six towed howitzers (2A65 *Msta-B*, 152 mm) were again missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁷

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in residential areas (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to as well as maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 8 August, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations of construction works south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above), and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk). The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities near government-controlled Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk), and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

On 8 and 9 August, the Mission 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).

⁶ 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.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Also on 8 and 9 August, the SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk), and monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

On 8 August, at the pedestrian border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission noted that there was no one present, and the border crossing point appeared to be closed.

On the same day, at the border crossing points near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) and near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), the SMM noted that there was vehicular and pedestrian traffic in both directions.

Also on the same day, while at the border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed no traffic in either direction. After about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

Again on the same day, while at the Chervona Mohyla railway station near Voznesenivka for about 20 minutes, the SMM saw no trains or people.

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

In Luhansk region, on both 8 and 9 August, 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 8 August, while at the EECP at about 08:50, 10:30, 12:30 and 12:45, the Mission saw in total about 110 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total about 570 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

The same day, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge at about 12:00, 13:00 and 14:00, the SMM saw in total about 45 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas, and in total about 130 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. At the same checkpoint, the SMM also observed a man pulling a trolley with a coffin which had been brought from government-controlled areas to non-government-controlled areas.

On 9 August, while at the EECP at about 08:50 and 10:40, the Mission saw in total about 290 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total about 380 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw two members of an international humanitarian organisation using wheelchairs to assist people with disabilities on the same route.

The same day, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge at about 10:40, the SMM saw no pedestrians queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas, and about ten pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On both days, the Mission saw golf carts transporting people between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, as well as a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the bridge and a bus stop about 1.8km south of the same bridge.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 9 August, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson) and near Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson), between Kherson region and Crimea.

The Mission continued monitoring in 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 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 below). 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.

Denial of access:

- On 8 August, at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), after about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.
- On 8 August, a member of the armed formations did not allow the Mission to conduct a mini-UAV flight in areas near Ternove (non-government-controlled, 57km east of Donetsk), stating that "UAV flights were not permitted over training areas".
- On 9 August, at a checkpoint at the northern entrance to Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), four armed members of the armed formations denied an SMM patrol passage southwards into the city as well as eastwards towards the border crossing point near Novoazovsk.
- Later on 9 August, at a checkpoint in Bessarabka (non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the same patrol passage eastwards when the patrol indicated it wanted to reach Novoazovsk through Markyne (non-government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk) (at the same checkpoint, the SMM had also faced a delay earlier that day, see below).

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.

Delay:

- On 9 August, at the abovementioned checkpoint in Bessarabka (where later that day the SMM faced a denial, see above), seven armed members of the armed formations only allowed the SMM to proceed southwards after about 35 minutes, citing "the necessity to receive instructions from their superiors".

Other impediments:

- On 9 August, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk).⁸
- On the same day, medical staff at a hospital in Perevalsk (non-government controlled, 38km west of Luhansk) refused to provide information regarding a civilian casualty to the SMM.

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
07/08/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Rodnykove (36km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-13 <i>Katyusha</i> , 132mm)	Near Perevalsk (38km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
08/08/2020	3	Self-propelled mortar (2S9 <i>Nona-S</i> , 120mm)	Near Molodyi Shakhtar (35km east of Donetsk)	
	4	Multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 <i>Grad</i>)	Near Novoamvrosiivske (non-government-controlled, 56km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
07/08/2020	1	Tank (T-64B, modified with anti-aircraft gun ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Perevalsk (38km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
07/08/2020	11	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	In and near Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk) (nine in a compound in a residential area of Zaitseve and two on its outskirts)	Long-range UAV
	3	Armoured combat vehicles	In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

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).