



Daily Report 194/2020

15 August 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Donetsk or Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM recorded a convoy traveling inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska, and observed people during evening and night hours inside the two other areas.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- Near the international border with the Russian Federation where there are no border crossing facilities, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted, during evening hours, two stationary vehicles, as well as people entering and leaving Ukraine.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- 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 observed public gatherings in Kharkiv and Kyiv related to the situation in Belarus.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted including in Khoroshovo, Marianivka and in Bessarabka, an area outside of government control near the international border with the Russian Federation.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations^{2,3}

The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Donetsk or Luhansk regions, for the sixth time since it began systematic data collection.⁴ During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded 36 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and 34 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. The Mission had previously recorded no ceasefire violations in both regions between the evenings of 11 and 12 August (see [SMM Daily Report 13 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 332 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 63 explosions, two projectiles in flight, five illumination flares and 262 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On the evening of 13 August, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), at about 21:45, the SMM camera at the Prince Ihor monument south-east of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) recorded a convoy of 13 vehicles, including six trucks, driving on the road that leads to the bridge southward in the direction of road P-22.

During the day on 14 August, inside the disengagement area, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) on the southern edge of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On the night between 13 and 14 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person within a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the south-eastern part of Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), about 1.1km east-south-east of the area’s north-western corner.

During the day on 14 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom it saw entering and walking about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returning.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw 15 workers with a truck, an excavator-loader, a steamroller, a grader, a minivan and a tractor with a trench-digging chainsaw, levelling and graveling the ground on both sides of road T-1316, as well as conducting groundworks, reportedly to lay communication cables.

On the evening of 13 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person

² During the reporting period, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, therefore the report does not contain the chart presenting trends or the map of ceasefire violations.

³ During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Berezove, 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.

within a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area's south-western corner, as well as three people in a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 14 August, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the SMM observed two members of the armed formations (visibly armed) in military-type clothing pulling a hand trolley carrying a plastic cylindrical container (approximately 100 litres) and two cars with one and three people inside, respectively, all dressed in military-type clothing, moving from east to west on the road between Petrivske and Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk). Positioned near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM observed a column of white smoke about 3-4km south-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area.

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 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, as well as weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas in government- and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the tables below).

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

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

On 13 August, about 4km south of Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time a recently dug trench extension (about 110m long) (not visible in imagery from 20 April), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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 continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) and repairs to power lines near Vesela Hora, Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km north-west of Luhansk) and Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk).

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk), Yashchykove (non-government-controlled, 46km west of Luhansk) and near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), and maintenance

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

work to the sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk).

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

Border areas outside government control

During the day on 13 August, while at the border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 45 minutes the SMM observed ten cars (one with Ukrainian and six with Russian licence plates, and three with “DPR” plates), two trucks (one with Ukrainian licence plates and one with “DPR” plates), four minivans (one with Ukrainian and three with Russian licence plates) and a bus (with “DPR” plates, about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine. During the same time, it saw 15 cars (one with Ukrainian, six with Russian and one with Lithuanian licence plates, and seven with “DPR” plates), two trucks (one with Ukrainian licence plates and one with “DPR” plates), six minivans (all with “DPR” plates) and two pedestrians (a man and a woman, both in their forties) all entering Ukraine.

The same day, the SMM noted that the pedestrian border crossing point near Ulianiivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) appeared to be closed and did not observe anyone present.

On the evening of 13 August, at 22:54, about 5km east-south-east of Mykyshivka (59km south-east of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three vehicles driving on a dirt road to a field about 500m west of the international border, where there are no border crossing facilities. The UAV then spotted two of the vehicles approaching the border and stopping. Thereafter, several people left these vehicles, walked towards the border and left Ukraine. During the next 25 minutes, the SMM observed several people entering Ukraine, walking up to one of the parked vehicles and then leaving Ukraine again. At 23:29, the UAV spotted all vehicles departing the area and traveling in a westerly direction on dirt roads, then turning north and arriving in Vlasivka (53km south-east of Luhansk) at 23:54.

On the same evening, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a cargo train with 30 hopper cars about 3.5km east-south-east of Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) heading east towards the border.

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.

While at the EECP at about 09:55 and 11:30, the Mission saw in total about 18 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total about 470 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

While present near the EECP, a man (in his fifties) told the SMM that he had spent another night in the disengagement area because he could not demonstrate that he lived in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. Two women (45-55 years old) told the

SMM that they had been denied entry to non-government-controlled areas because they were not on a list of people allowed entry.

In Donetsk region, the SMM saw that the EECF near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational. While at the EECF from 09:20 to 15:00, the SMM observed about 30 vehicles and about 15 civilians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel to the non-government-controlled areas.

At the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka between 09:10 and 15:30, the SMM observed 14 cars and three buses (about 50 passengers each, mixed genders and ages) and about 50 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel to government-controlled areas. All vehicles had Ukrainian licence plates and the drivers were encouraged by a man (in his sixties) in civilian clothing to leave their “DPR” plates in a storage area at the checkpoint. The SMM observed two cars (both with small children on board) and a bus (about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) traveling towards non-government-controlled areas. The bus was then escorted towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city by members of the armed formations.

Public gatherings in Kharkiv and Kyiv

On 12 and 14 August, in Kharkiv, the SMM monitored peaceful gatherings of about 100 people and 500, respectively, at Liberty Square and at Sumska Street, respectively. On both occasions, the Mission heard participants (mixed genders and ages) expressing messages critical of the situation in Belarus.

On 13 and 14 August, in Kyiv, near the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to Ukraine at 3 Mykhaila Kotsiubynskoho Street, the SMM monitored peaceful gatherings of about 300 and 20 people, respectively, expressing messages critical of the situation in Belarus.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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 10 August 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.

Denials

- At a temporary checkpoint about 3km east of Khoroshovo (non-government-controlled, 8km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations (visibly

armed) denied the SMM passage citing “an ongoing operation in the area”. The SMM observed eight members of the armed formations (all visibly armed) wearing uniforms with “police” written on them at the checkpoint and that all traffic traveling north to south was being checked.

- At a checkpoint near Bessarabka (non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations (visibly armed) told the SMM that it was not permitted to proceed after the SMM did not provide a patrol plan. The SMM saw five members of the armed formations present (all armed with automatic rifles) and observed that civilian traffic was allowed to pass.
- At a checkpoint about 3km north of Marianivka (non-government-controlled, 13km south of Donetsk), six members of the armed formations (wearing uniforms with “police” written on them) denied the SMM passage. They did not provide a reason.

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.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/08/2020	2	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	At the airfield in Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	6	Towed howitzer (four D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm, one D-20, 152mm, one <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)		
	2	Self-propelled howitzer (one 2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm and one 2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

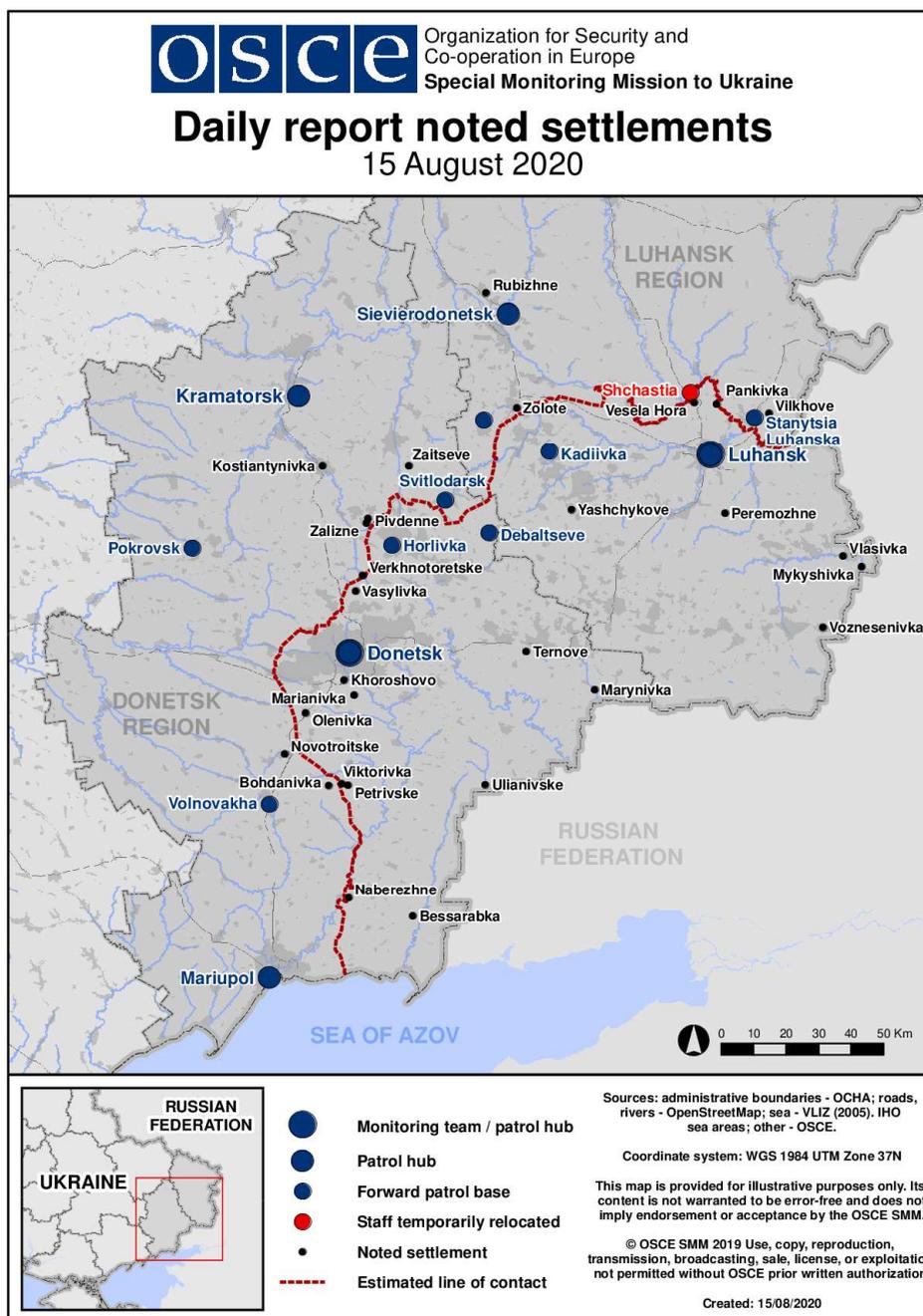
Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
12/08/2020	28	Tank (T-64)	At and near the railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk) (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Report 13 August 2020)	Mini-UAV
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
13/08/2020	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	At a compound in Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/08/2020	2	Tank (one T-72 and one T-64)	At the airfield in Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Mortar (one 2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm and one 2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)		
	4	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		
	2	Surface-to-air missile system (one 9K33 <i>Osa</i> and one 9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
14/08/2020	9	Tank (six T-64 and three T-72B)	Near a training area in Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	21	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	3	Mortars (type undetermined, 82mm)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/08/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	At a railyard in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/08/2020	-	A recently dug trench extension (about 110m long) (not visible in imagery from 20 April)	Near Naberezhne (77km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV

⁷ 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 regions⁸



⁸ 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.)