



Daily Report 195/2020

17 August 2020¹

Summary

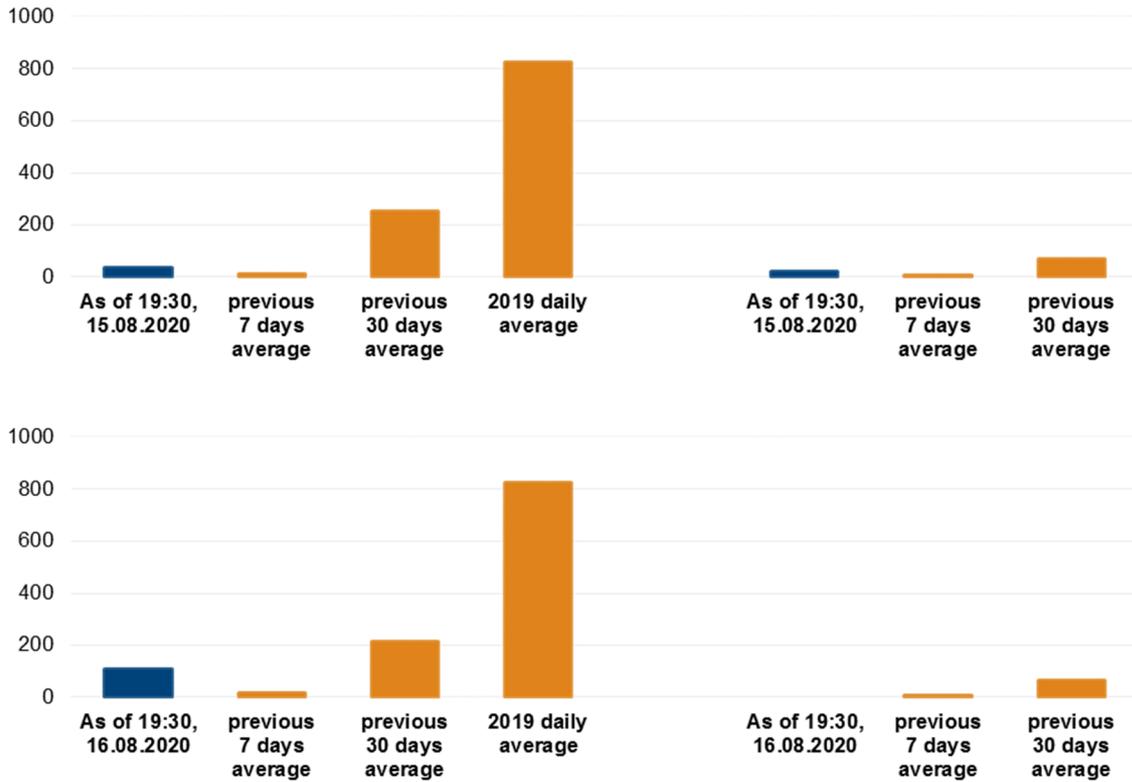
- Between the evenings of 14 and 15 August, the SMM recorded 34 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region (in the previous reporting period, the Mission did not record any ceasefire violations). Between the evenings of 15 and 16 August, the SMM recorded 108 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 14 and 16 August, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region.
- 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 hours.
- The Mission visited three border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- 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 and its corresponding checkpoint.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka, as well as at checkpoints near Shevchenko and Bessarabka, both near the border with the Russian Federation, and near Staromykhailivka, all outside of government control.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations

Number of recorded explosions



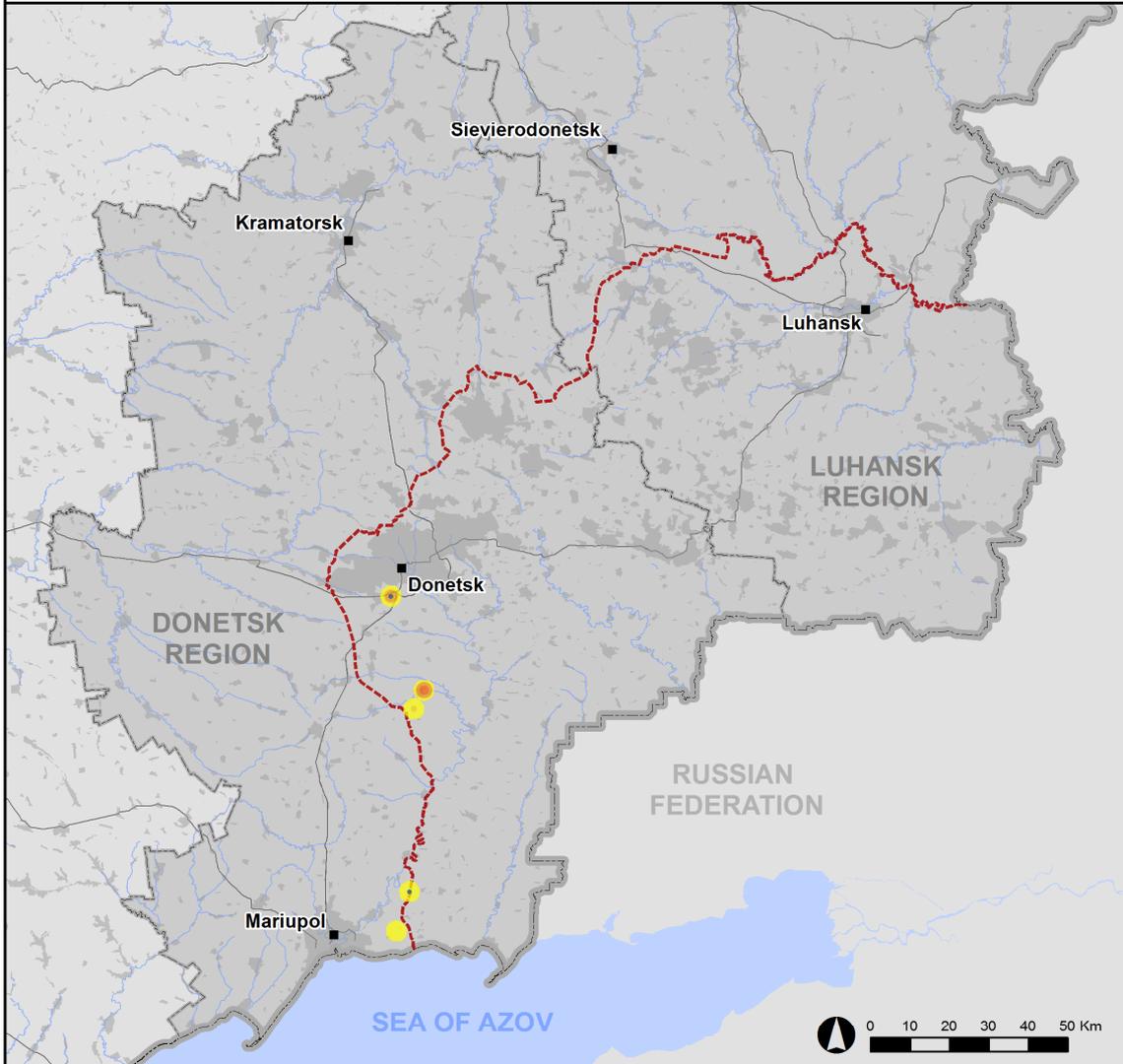
² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

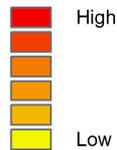


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 15-16 August 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion (Blue dot)
- Settlement (Black square)
- Estimated line of contact (Red dashed line)

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: 17/08/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 14 and 15 August, the SMM recorded 34 ceasefire violations, including 21 explosions (in the [previous reporting period](#) the Mission, did not record ceasefire violations). The majority of ceasefire violations, including all explosions, were recorded about 3km north of Chystoe Ozero (non-government-controlled, 14km south-west of Donetsk).

Between the evenings of 15 and 16 August, the SMM recorded 108 ceasefire violations and no explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded at north-easterly directions of Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 14 and 16 August, the SMM did not record any ceasefire violations. The Mission had previously recorded ceasefire violations in Luhansk region between the evenings of 13 and 14 August 2020 (see [SMM Daily Report 14 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 474 ceasefire violations, in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 84 explosions, two projectiles in flight, five illumination flares and 383 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske³

On 15 and 16 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 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 near a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge and about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner and three people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner and about 1.4km south-east of the area’s north-western corner.

On 15 August, outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw two excavators digging in the ground on both sides of road T-1316, reportedly to connect water pipes. On 16 August, in the same area, the SMM observed two trucks, an excavator-loader, a grader, a roller, a tractor and a bulldozer, and 11 workers from the non-government-controlled area conducting works, reportedly for a future parking lot.

On 15 and 16 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 entering and walking about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returning.

³ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

On the evening of 14 August, inside **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two persons near a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 15 August, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

On 16 August, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM recorded eight shots of small-arms fire assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivske.*

On the same day, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM saw a wooden log and electrical wiring stretching across the road between Petrivske and Bohdanivka from a nearby electrical mast. The wire blocked the SMM's ability to continue with its intended patrol.*

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 SMM spotted two self-propelled howitzers in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁴

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles and recent trench extensions in the security zone in government- and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

On 13 August, in a field about 50m north-west of positions of the armed formations about 2.7km north of Lozove (non-government-controlled, 13km west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time six probable impact craters assessed as caused by mortar rounds.

Presence of mines near Zoloti Pisky, Lozove and Donetsk city and of unexploded ordnance near Debaltseve, all in Donetsk region

On 13 August, about 3km and 4km north of Lozove, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted a total of about 95 anti-tank mines laid across both lanes of the highway leading from Lozove to Zoloti Pisky, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 8 June 2019](#)).

On the same highway between Lozove and Zoloti Pisky, about 2.5km south of Zoloti Pisky, the same UAV again spotted about 27 anti-tank mines assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 25 April 2020](#)).

⁴ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

The UAV also spotted that about 68 anti-tank mines [previously observed](#) on the same highway, about 1.2, 1.5 and 2km south of Zoloti Pisky, were no longer present.

In a field on the north-western edge of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, the same UAV again spotted about 20 anti-tank mines, part of a previously observed larger minefield (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 5 March 2020](#)).

On the same day, near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in a residential area in the south-eastern part of Zoloti Pisky, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 35 anti-tank mines laid across and near a road leading to Donetsk city (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 5 March 2020](#)).

On 16 August, near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), about 3m from road M-03, the Mission saw for the first time five objects assessed as rocket-propelled grenades (two of them burnt but unexploded) (not visible on 15 August).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 15 and 16 August, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations for 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 Shchastia bridge (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk)). On 16 August, the Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable demining activities near the Shchastia bridge.

On 15 August, the SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).

On 15 and 16 August, the Mission 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).

On 15 and 16 August, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). On 15 August, the SMM also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

On 15 August, while at the border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed 25 cars (including three with “LPR” plates) and two buses (with “LPR” plates) queuing to exit Ukraine. After about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

On the same day, while at the Chervona Mohyla railway station near Voznesenivka, the Mission saw no trains or people.

On the same day, while at the border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 15 minutes, the SMM saw five covered cargo trucks (including three

with “DPR” plates) and 11 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission also observed 15 cars (including four with “DPR” plates), 22 covered cargo trucks (including 15 with “DPR” plates) as well as about 30 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, while at the border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission noted that it appeared to be closed, with no personnel present.

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

In Luhansk region, on 15 and 16 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 15 August, while at the EECP at 09:50 and 11:25, the Mission saw about 110 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and about 310 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at 13:25 and 14:50, the SMM saw eight pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 90 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

On 16 August, while at the EECP at 09:55 and 11:30, the Mission saw about 2,700 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 520 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction. While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at 11:30, the SMM saw about seven pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about five pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter 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 bridge.

The Mission 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 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

- On 15 August, at a border crossing point in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.
- On 16 August, at a temporary checkpoint near Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 82km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage.
- On 16 August, at a checkpoint near Bessarabka (non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the Mission passage southwards to Novoazovsk, referring to quarantine restrictions.
- On 16 August, at a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (visibly armed) denied the Mission passage, citing the SMM's safety.
- On 16 August, east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM saw a wooden log and electrical wiring stretching across the road from a nearby electrical mast. The wire blocked the SMM's passage.

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 15 August, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Dolia (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk)⁵.
- On 15 August, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk).
- On 15 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).
- On 16 August, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk).
- On 16 August, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over and near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see above).

⁵ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of several kilometres of the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/08/2020	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a compound in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
13/08/2020	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (probable BRDM-2)	Near Pisky (11km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	-	Trench extension (about 25m long)	Zoloti Pisky (12km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
14/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (probable MT-LB)	Near Hnutove (90km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
15/08/2020	5	Infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-1)	Near Netailove (22km north-west of Donetsk), loaded onto trailers heading west	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/08/2020	-	Trench extension (about 110m long)	Near Lozove (13km west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	-	New vehicle revetment (about 20m long)		
14/08/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Vedenske (90km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (probable MT-LB)	In a compound in Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	
16/08/2020	-	New trench (about 4-5m long)	Near Lohvynove (59km north-east of Donetsk), 50m from road M-03	Patrol

⁶ 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 16 August 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km E of Chystoe ozero (non-government-controlled, 14km south-west of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Aug, 09:42-10:20
	3-4km N	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	15-Aug, 09:42-10:20
About 1km SW of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	15-Aug, 10:28
Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km south of Donetsk)	6-7km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Aug, 11:56
About 600m SE Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk)	1-1.5km NE	Heard	45	Shot		Small arms	16-Aug, 12:58-13:14
		Heard	55	Burst		Small arms	16-Aug, 12:58-13:14
About 2kmN of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk)	1-1.5km NW	Heard	8	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	16-Aug, 14:43-14:46

⁷ 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 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.)