

# Daily Report 197/2020

19 August 2020<sup>1</sup>

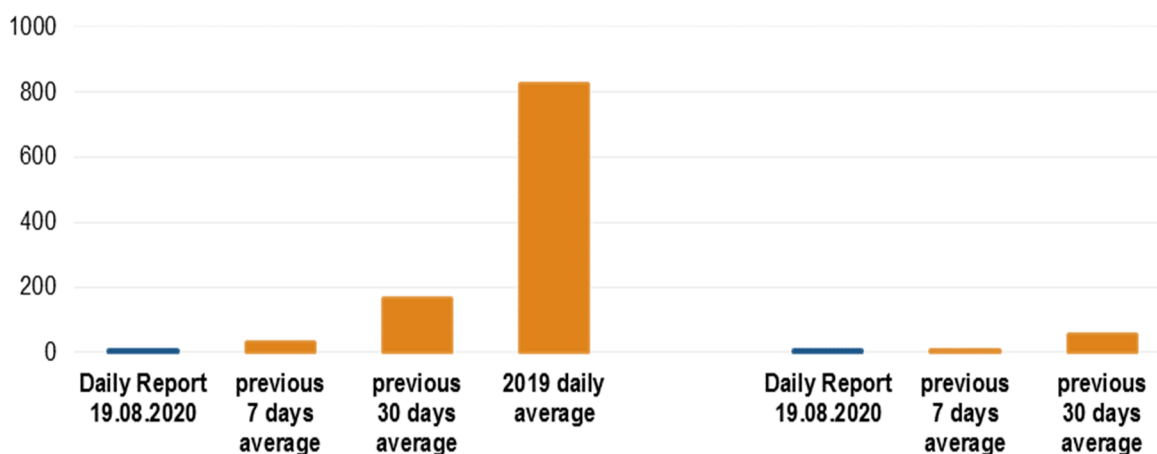
## Summary

- The SMM recorded two ceasefire violations in Donetsk region (compared with none in the previous reporting period) and none in Luhansk region (compared with three in the previous reporting period).
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. The SMM recorded an explosion inside the disengagement area near Petrivske, and SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicles observed people during evening and night hours inside the disengagement areas near Zolote and Petrivske.
- 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 entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 18 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

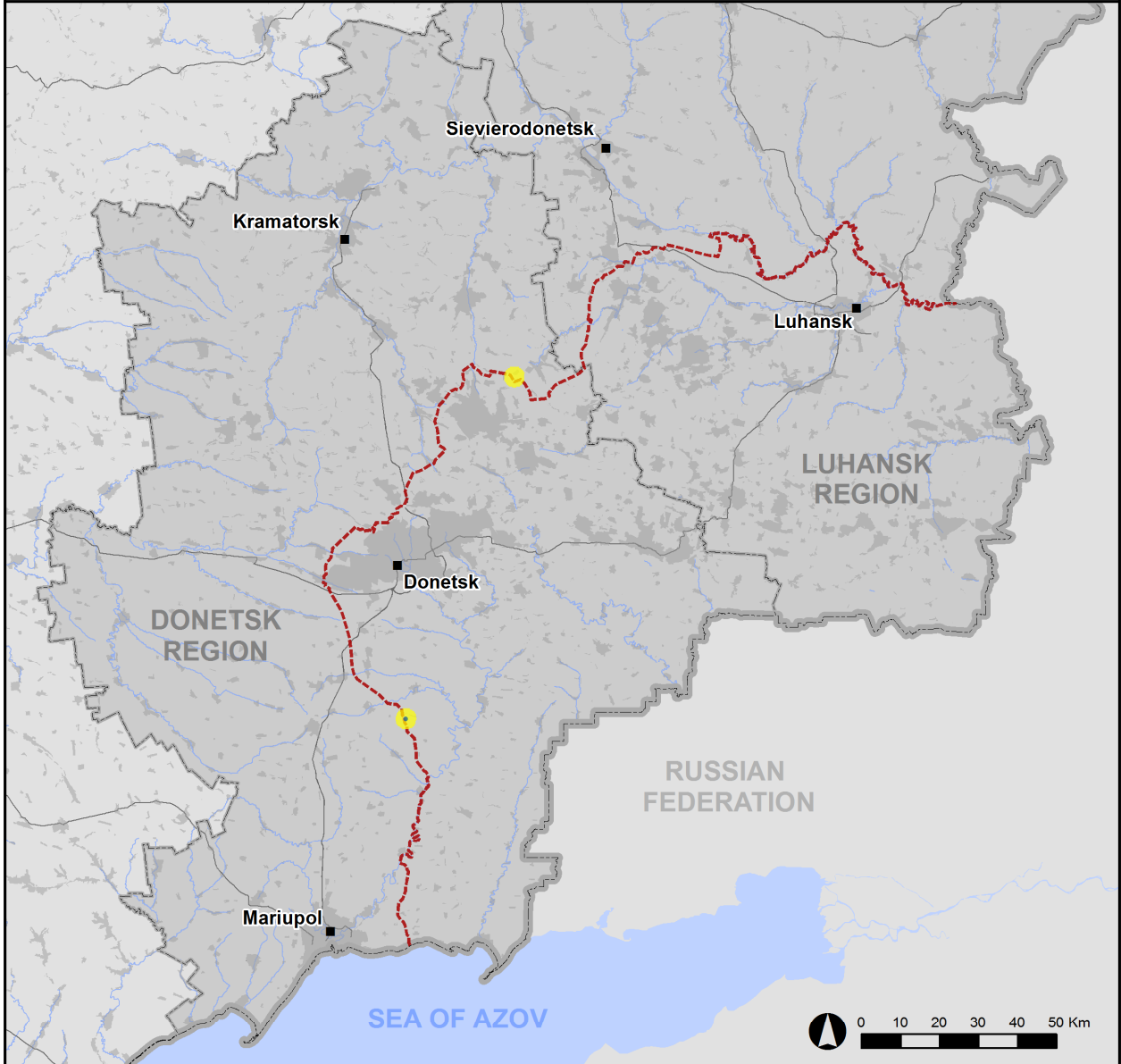
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

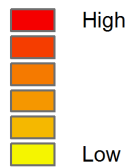


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18 August 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: 19/08/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations, including an explosion assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded three ceasefire violations.

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 479 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 88 explosions, two projectiles in flight, six illumination flares and 383 bursts and shots).

### **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 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 (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 17 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.4km south-east of the area’s north-western corner and near its north-eastern corner.

During the day on 18 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom, accompanied by a person in a hazmat suit, entered and walked about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returned.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 250m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw nine workers with two trucks, two bulldozers, a minivan, excavator-loader, road grader, steam roller, excavator, tractor and flatbed trailer conducting groundworks.

On the evening of 16 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner. On the night between 17 and 18 August, inside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted five people near former positions of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 18 August, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, near the disengagement area, the Mission heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 1-2km south-west and assessed as inside the disengagement area.

On the same day, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area (see also below).

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<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.

## **Withdrawal of weapons**

The SMM continued monitoring the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum. The Mission saw 20 multiple launch rocket systems and five towed howitzers in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk region, respectively, and 57 weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk (including in two training areas) and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the table below).

## **Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the line of contact in Donetsk region, including in residential areas (for further details, see the table below).

On 16 August, an SMM long-range-UAV spotted for the first time an extension (about 90m long) of a trench assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 1.3km south-east of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) (not seen in imagery from 12 July 2020).

## **Presence of mines near Pyshevyk and of an explosive remnant of ammunition near Vesela Hora**

On 16 August, in a field about 300m south-south-east of Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted at least 50 anti-tank-mines (TM-62) (part of a larger minefield), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, laid in four rows running north to south for about 3.5km.

On 18 August, on the edge of road H-21, about 2.5km east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), the SMM spotted for the first time part of a 120mm mortar shell, assessed as an explosive remnant of ammunition (not seen on 16 August 2020).

## **SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

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 south of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk). During the day on 18 August, while positioned in Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk), the SMM heard an explosion, assessed as a controlled detonation at an assessed range of 2.5-3km.

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); repairs to and maintenance and inspection of power lines near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora, Novokyivka (25km east of Luhansk), Pionerske (19km east of Luhansk) and Ohulchansk (25km east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Yashchukove (46km west of Luhansk) and Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk); and demining activities on

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

the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia, near Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk) and near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk).

The Mission also 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).

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission 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 10:10 and 11:30, the SMM saw about 800 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and about 180 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw that two golf carts were transporting people between the EECP and the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

South of the EECP, near the new span of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, five people (three women in their sixties and seventies, one man in his thirties and one man in his sixties or seventies) told the SMM that they had been denied entry to non-government-controlled areas at the checkpoint of the armed formations, and, as a result, three of them had spent the night in the disengagement area.

### **Security situation in south-east Kherson region**

On 16 and 17 August, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at a Ukrainian State Border Guard Service security post in Valok (205km south-east of Kherson) and at the checkpoint near Chonhar (163km 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 [SMM Daily Report 18 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.*

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

- The sides continued to deny the Mission 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 18 August, three SMM mini-UAVs experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, once while flying over areas near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) and twice while flying over the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see above).<sup>7</sup>
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV twice experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV twice experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).

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

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
16/08/2020	20	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Krasnolutskyi (52km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Molodyi Shakhtar (35km east of Donetsk)	
	2	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Vilkhivka (40km east of Donetsk)	

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
13/08/2020	21	Surface to air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10I</i> )	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
16/08/2020	9	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
17/08/2020	9	Tank (type undetermined)	In a compound near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	
	8	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)		
	10	Towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)		

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
16/08/2020	-	Trench extension (about 90m long) (not seen in imagery from 12 July)	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type unknown)	Near Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type unknown)	In a residential area near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Pyshevyk (84km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
17/08/2020	6	Infantry fighting vehicle (five BMP variant and one BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Pyshevyk (84 south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
18/08/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Troitske (30km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area of Toretsk (formerly Dzerzhynsk, 43km north of Donetsk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
17/08/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

<sup>8</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 18 August 2020<sup>9</sup>**

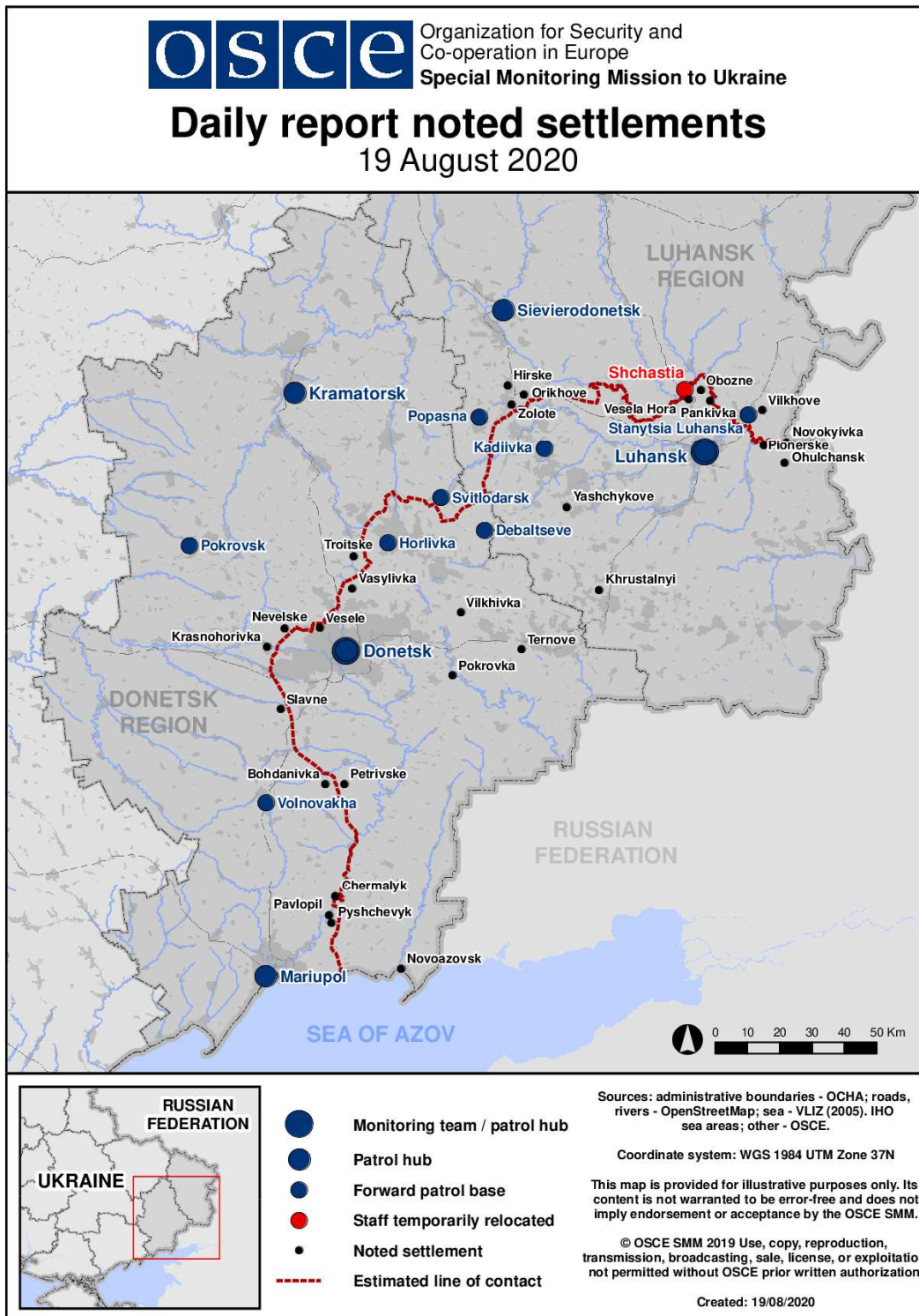
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	17-Aug, 23:00
About 700m NW of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Aug, 14:08

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<sup>9</sup> 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 regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</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 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.)