

Daily Report 202/2020

25 August 2020¹

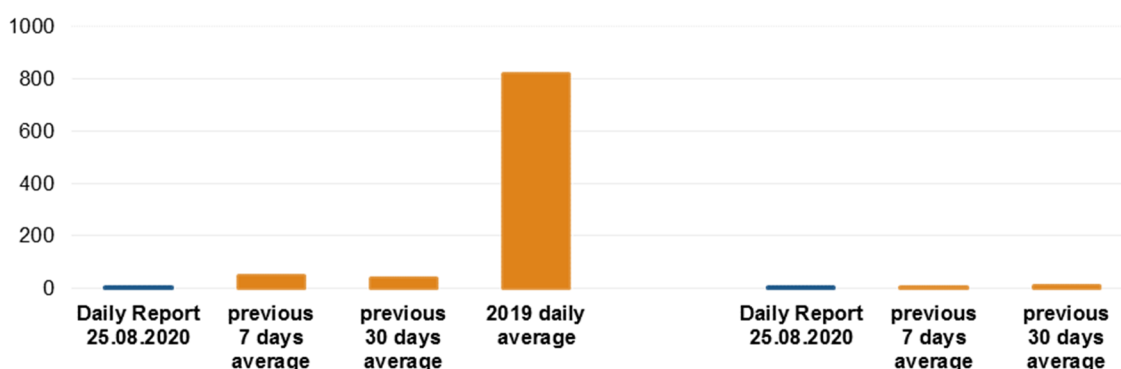
Summary

- The SMM recorded six ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, it spotted people inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka and at border crossing points near non-government controlled Izvaryne and Sievernyi.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 August 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, Zolote and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

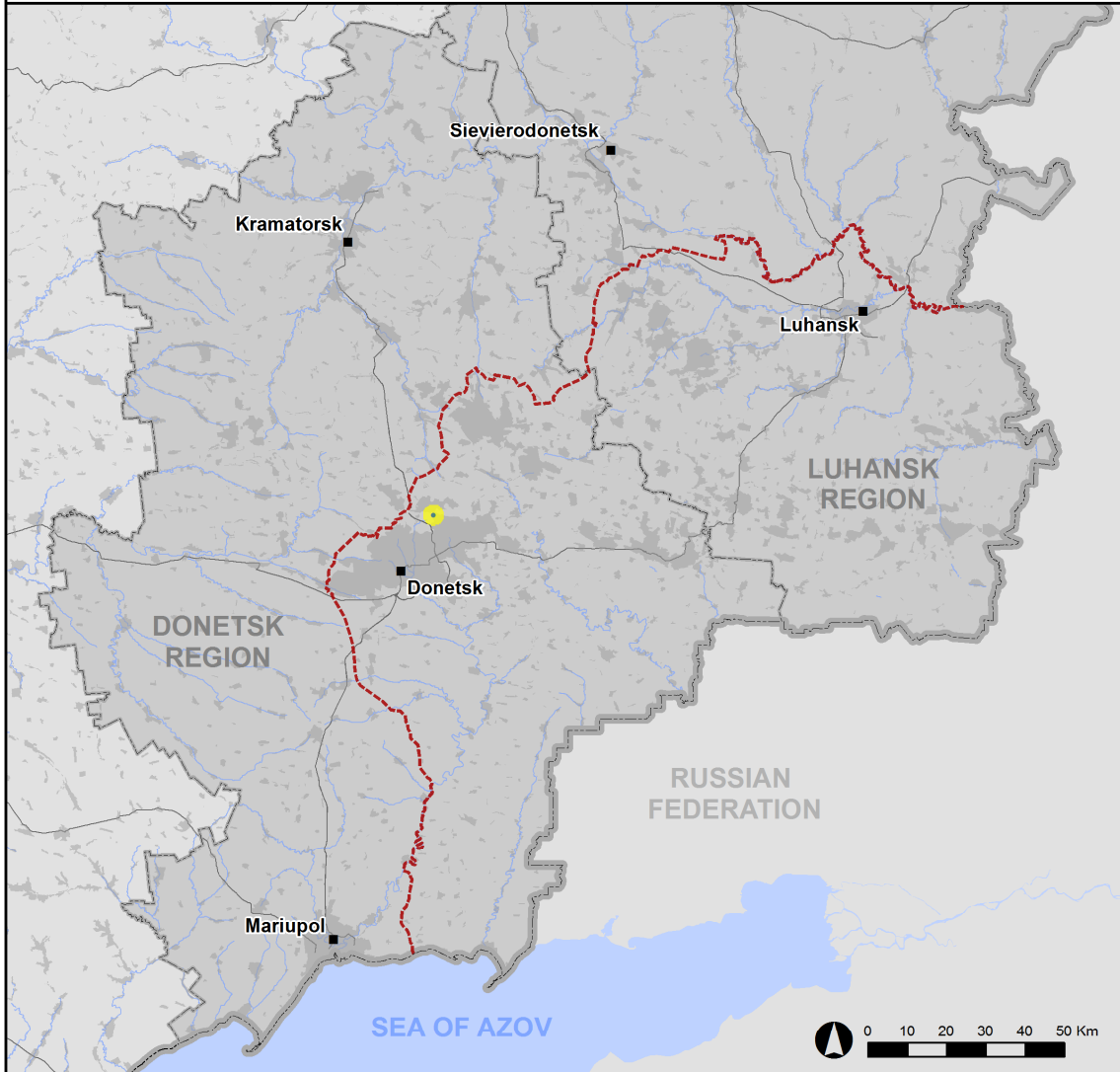
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

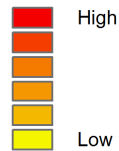


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 25/08/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions in an area south-east of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk). During the [previous 24 hours](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous 24 hours](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

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 702 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 100 explosions, two projectiles in flight, nine illumination flares and 591 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 24 August, 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) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and their checkpoint south of it.

On the evening of 22 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside two former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one south of the railway line, about 1.5km south-east of the area’s north-western corner and two on the south-western edge of Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), about 1km east-south-east of the area’s north-western corner. The same UAV spotted three people inside former positions of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 24 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom entered and walked about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returned.

On the evening of 23 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner and one person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner.

On 24 August, the SMM saw four white small cement blocks placed across the road leading from Petrivske to Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) about 300m north-west of its camera site (for similar observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 14 August 2020](#)). An armed member of the armed formations refused to provide information about the general situation without permission from his superiors.

On the same day, while positioned at three locations close to the disengagement area near Petrivske, the SMM observed a calm situation.

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

Presence of anti-tank mines

On 22 August, at two locations about 1.5km south-east of Zoloti Pisky (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV again spotted 20 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, laid across a road leading to non-government-controlled Donetsk city (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 17 August 2020](#)).

On the same day, at the destroyed Donetsk international airport, the UAV also again spotted 23 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations, laid across a taxiway (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 7 July 2020](#)).

Also on 22 August, about 3km east of Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk), the UAV spotted for the first time 22 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, laid in a single row across a road leading to Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk).

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

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

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

On 20 August, about 1km south of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time a trench dug in a circular shape (about 125m long) assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 25 October 2019). About 2km east and east-north-east of the previous trench, the UAV spotted two trench extensions (both running west to east, about 25m and 45m in length and not visible in imagery from 3 October 2019 and 12 December 2019, respectively) and two other trench extensions (one running west to east and the second running north to south, both about 15m long and not visible in imagery from 21 December 2019), all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On 22 August, about 2km east-north-east of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted for the first time a trench extension (35m long) and another trench (100m long) assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 21 August 2020 and 16 August 2020, respectively).

On the same day, about 2km south-east of Novotoshkivske (government-controlled, 53km west of Luhansk), the same UAV spotted for the first time a trench extension (about 30m long) assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 26 July 2020).

Also on 22 August, about 1km east of Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted for the first time a trench system (not visible in imagery from 26 March 2020) consisting of three trenches (50m and 100m long respectively, both

not visible in imagery from 26 March 2020, and one 720m long not visible in imagery from 7 June 2020), all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Also on 22 August, near the north-western edge of Holubivske (non-government-controlled, about 51km west of Luhansk), the same UAV spotted for the first time a trench (about 15m long) (not visible in imagery from 7 June 2020) and a trench extension (about 160m long) (not visible in imagery from 26 July 2020), all assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On the same day, near the southern edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), the UAV spotted for the first time a trench (about 25m long) (not visible in imagery from 17 March 2020), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 23 August, about 2.5km north-west and 3km north-north-west of Nyzhnie Lozove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted for the first time a trench (about 40m long) and another trench (about 130m long), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (both not visible in imagery from 1 April 2020) and construction materials close to another trench nearby.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission 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 24 August, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to a gas pipeline near Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk) and Dovhe (non-government-controlled, 22km north-west of Luhansk), as well as to enable railway track maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

While at the border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a car and a truck (both with “LPR” plates) and seven people (three men and four women, mixed ages) entering Ukraine, as well as three cars exiting Ukraine (including two with “LPR” plates). After about an hour, two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Sievernyi (50km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw no pedestrian traffic entering or exiting Ukraine. After about one minute, two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

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

The Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed

formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational.

While at the EECF, between 09:00 and 15:00, the SMM observed four cars, an empty bus and 12 people (ten women and two men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas.

While at the checkpoint near Olenivka, between about 09:00 and 15:00, the SMM observed eight cars, an empty bus and 122 people (mixed genders and ages) traveling towards government-controlled areas as well as a car, five women (mixed ages) and a child queuing to travel in the same direction. The SMM also saw three cars, six people (mixed genders, including three children) entering non-government-controlled areas and two buses (with 50 people respectively) and a van (with 15 people) being escorted by members of the armed formations (in one vehicle) towards non-government-controlled areas.

The SMM observed that people waited for hours in the heat, without shade or the provision of water, and that sanitary conditions remain inadequate.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECF in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECF at about 10:30 and 11:30, the SMM saw about 600 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and about 40 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. Throughout the day, the SMM saw golf carts transporting people between the EECF and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

Independence Day celebrations in Kyiv, Dnipro and Ivano-Frankivsk

On 24 August, the SMM monitored peaceful gatherings on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day in Dnipro, Ivano-Frankivsk and Kyiv.

At the first two locations, the SMM saw about 300 people respectively (mostly men, mixed ages) some of whom were wearing camouflage clothing. In Kyiv, the SMM saw at least 30,000 people (mixed genders and ages) (some of whom were wearing camouflage clothing and carrying photos of deceased soldiers) who gathered at Taras Shevchenko Park and nearby streets.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Kharkiv 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 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas, referring to the need for permission from those in control.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.
- At a border crossing point near Sievernyi (non-government-controlled, 50km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.

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 military and military-type presence in the security zone

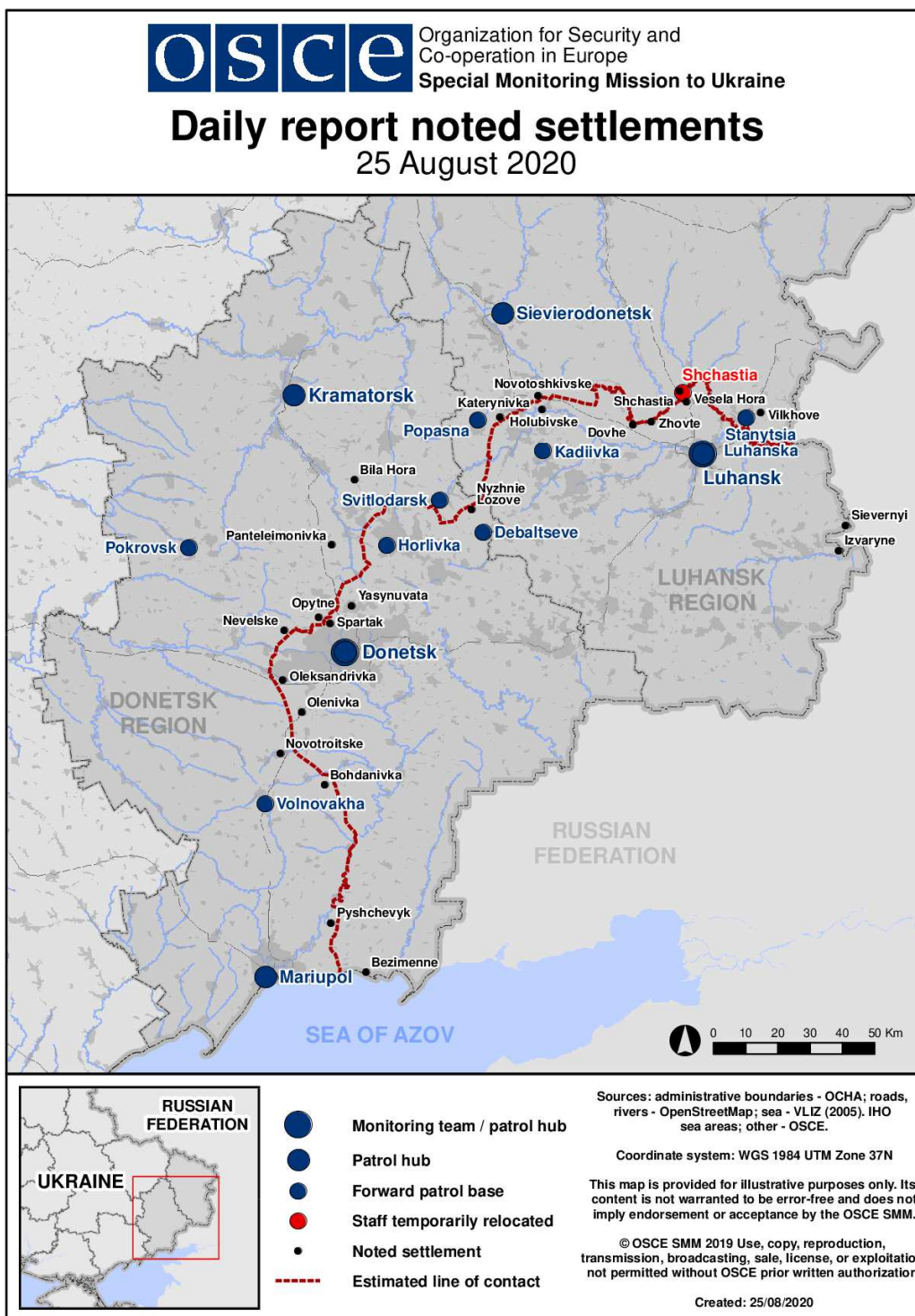
Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
20/08/2020	-	A trench (about 125m long) (not seen in imagery from 25 October 2019) and four trench extensions (about 15-45m long) (not seen in imagery from 3 October 2019 and 12 December 2019)	About 1km south and 3km south-east of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
22/08/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle (one BTR-variant, two type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Bila Hora (54km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (probable BRDM-2)	Near Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Panteleimonivka (34km north of Donetsk)	
	-	A trench and a trench extension (in total 135m long) (not seen in imagery from 21 August 2020 and 16 August 2020)	About 2km east-north-east of Zolote-4/Rodina (59km west of Luhansk)	
	-	A trench extension (about 30m long) (not seen in imagery from 26 July 2020)	About 2km south-east of Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk)	
	-	A trench system (about 900m long) (not seen in imagery from 26 March 2020 and 7 June 2020)	About 1km east of Pyshevyk (84km south of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
22/08/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	-	A trench and a trench extension (about 175m long) (not visible in imagery from 7 June 2020 and 26 July 2020)	Near the north-western edge of Holubivske (51km west of Luhansk)	
	-	A trench (about 25m long) (not seen in imagery from 17 March 2020)	Near the southern edge of Oleksandrivka (20km south-west of Donetsk)	
23/08/2020	-	Two trenches (in total 170m long) (not seen in imagery from 1 April 2020)	About 2.5km north-west and 3km north-north-west of Nyzhnie Lozove (59km north-east of Donetsk)	

Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 August 2020⁶

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 700m WSW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Aug, 11:20-11:23

⁶ 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 regions⁷



⁷ 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.)