



# Daily Report 207/2020

31 August 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- Between the evenings of 28 and 29 August, the SMM recorded 42 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region (in the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation). Between the evenings of 29 and 30 August, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 28 and 29 August, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region (in the previous reporting period, the Mission also recorded no ceasefire violations). Between the evenings of 29 and 30 August, the Mission recorded 60 ceasefire violations in the region, assessed as part of a live-fire exercise.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night-time hours, an SMM unmanned aerial vehicle observed 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, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited four border crossing points in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and monitored areas near the border in Donetsk region, all outside of government control.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point near Voznesnivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk) in Luhansk region.\*
- The SMM monitored various public gatherings in Lviv, Chernivtsi and Odessa.

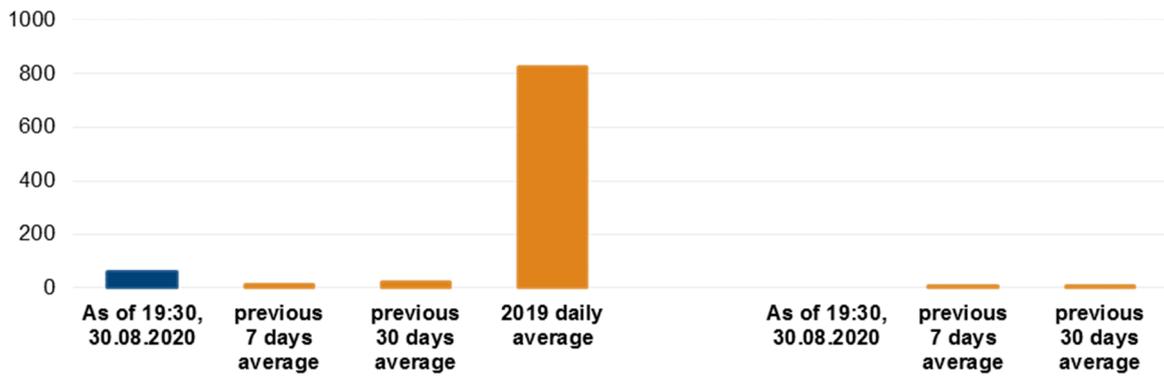
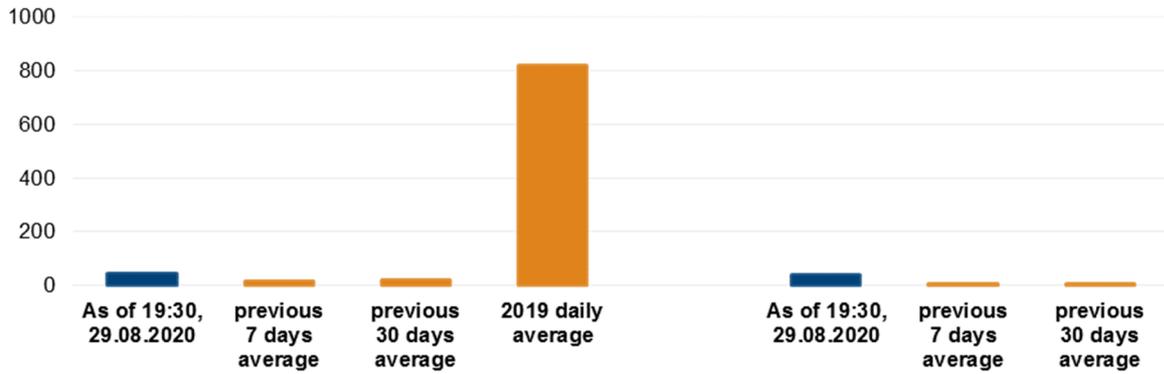
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<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 30 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

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

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



<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.

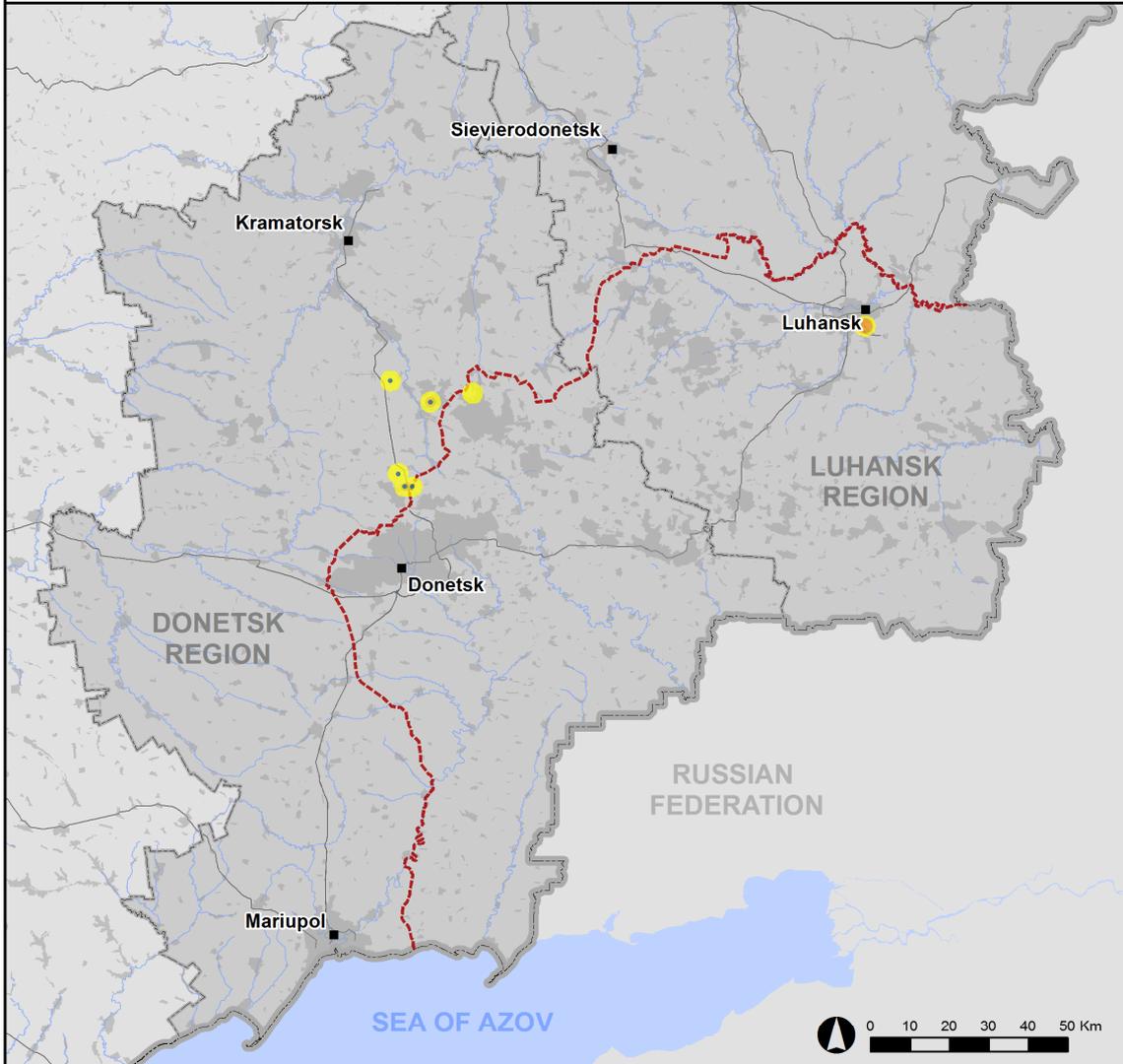
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

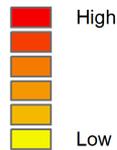


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29-30 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: 31/08/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 28 and 29 August, the SMM recorded 42 ceasefire violations, including 37 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations (including 16 undetermined explosions) were recorded in areas near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below) and in areas west-north-west of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation, also near the DFS.

Between the evenings of 29 and 30 August, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 28 and 29 August, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), it also recorded none.

Between the evenings of 29 and 30 August, the Mission recorded 60 ceasefire violations – all shots of small-arms fire in the south-eastern part of non-government-controlled Luhansk city, assessed as part of a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone.

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 829 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 148 explosions, two projectiles in flight, 12 illumination flares and 667 bursts and shots).

#### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 29 and 30 August, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed 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 28 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner. The same UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

Throughout the day on 29 and 30 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 walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 29 and 30 August, outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the Mission saw workers with heavy construction equipment taking measurements, welding and conducting groundworks.

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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.

On the night between 28 and 29 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces – one person about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner and another near the area's south-western corner. It also spotted five people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 29 and 30 August, while positioned near the disengagement area near Petrivske, the SMM observed a calm situation.

### **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 zone<sup>6</sup>**

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

On 28 August, about 3km south-west of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted for the first time a 20m-long trench extension, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not seen in imagery from 6 July 2020).

### **SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

On 29 August, 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 bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

On 29 and 30 August, the SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), and on 29 August, to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk).

On 29 and 30 August, it also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities on the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia and in areas near government-controlled Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

On 29 and 30 August, the SMM also continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. On 29 August, while positioned at two locations near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission recorded 16 undetermined explosions within a 5km radius of the station (see above and table below).

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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.

## **Border areas outside government control**

On 29 August, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 55 minutes, the SMM saw 24 cars (including 13 with “DPR” plates), two buses and two pedestrians (woman and man in their thirties) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it saw twenty cars (including 13 with “DPR” plates), five covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), five minivans (including two with “DPR” plates) and ten pedestrians (five women and three men, mixed ages, and two boys under 14 years old) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the SMM monitored border areas near Stepanivka (76km east of Donetsk), Tarany (74km east of Donetsk), Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk) and Semenivske (73km east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

Also on the same day, while at the railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the SMM saw between 80 and 100 stationary empty open freight wagons and a chemical/oil rail tanker. While at the border crossing point near Voznesenivka, the SMM saw two pedestrians (woman and man in their seventies) entering Ukraine and a covered cargo truck with “LPR” plates exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

On 30 August, while at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 30 minutes, the Mission saw four pedestrians (one woman in her fifties and three men, two in their forties and one in his fifties) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 75 minutes, the SMM saw eight cars (including two with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks with “DPR” plates, two buses with “DPR” plates (with a total of about 100 passengers, mixed genders and ages), two mini-vans (with “DPR” plates) and 53 pedestrians (22 women and 24 men, mixed ages, and four girls and three boys under 16 years old) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission saw 11 cars (including two with “DPR” plates), two empty trucks (with Azerbaijani licence plates), three mini-vans (including two with “DPR” plates) and 46 pedestrians (26 women and 17 men, mixed ages, and three girls under 16 years old) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the Mission monitored border areas near Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), Novoukrainske (77km east of Donetsk) and Manych (76km east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

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

In Donetsk region, on 28 August, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational.

While at the checkpoint near Olenivka between 8:45 and 15:10, the SMM observed 93 people (mixed genders and ages, including 16 children), ten cars, two minivans (about seven passengers each, mixed genders and ages) and two ambulances queuing to travel

towards government-controlled areas. The Mission also saw 27 cars traveling in the opposite direction.

While at the EECP near Novotroitske between 9:00 and 15:30, the SMM saw two cars entering government-controlled areas and six cars and 58 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

In Luhansk region, on 29 and 30 August, the SMM noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

On 29 August, while at the EECP between 9:00 and 14:40, the Mission observed a regular flow of people entering government-controlled areas and about 2,000 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On 29 August, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge between 13:15 and 13:50, the SMM saw 14 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 140 people (mixed genders and ages) traveling in the opposite direction.

On 30 August, while at the EECP between at about 10:30 and 13:35, the Mission observed 400 people (mixed genders and ages) entering government-controlled areas and about the same number of people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

On the same day, while at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge at 11:00 and 12:00, the Mission saw about 50 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 160 (mixed genders and ages) traveling in the opposite direction.

On 29 and 30 August, the SMM saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP, as well as a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On 29 and 30 August, at the EECP, a total of four people (one woman and three men, mixed ages) told the Mission that they had spent several nights inside the disengagement area near the EECP since they could not demonstrate at the checkpoint of the armed formations that they lived in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

### **Public gatherings in Lviv, Chernivtsi and Odessa**

On 29 August, in front of the National Memorial to the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred in the centre of Lviv, the SMM saw about 30 people (mixed genders and ages) peacefully commemorating events related to the Day of Remembrance of Ukraine's Defenders. The Mission also saw a gathering of about 20 people (mixed genders, in their 20s) in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument.

On the same day, in the central square of Chernivtsi, the Mission monitored a peaceful gathering of about 130 people (mixed genders and ages) expressing messages critical of the government's COVID-19 protective measures.

On 30 August, on Prymorskyi Boulevard, in the centre of Odessa, the SMM saw a group of about 100 people (mostly men in their twenties, some younger), some of whom were wearing T-shirts or holding flags with "Tradition and Order" written on them, as well as holding banners displaying homophobic messages. The Mission saw the men attacking (in

some instances with electronic Tasers) and verbally abusing a second group of about 30 people (mixed genders and ages) holding banners with messages supporting the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community. The SMM then saw about 200 law enforcement officers separating the two groups and detaining 11 people. It also saw two men and a woman from the latter group and three police officers receiving medical aid.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kharkiv, Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro 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 29 August, at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations (visibly armed) 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.

#### Other impediments:

- On 28 August, an SMM long-range UAV twice experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between non-government-controlled Starobesheve (32km south-east of Donetsk) and Staromykhailivka (15km west of Donetsk), and between government-controlled Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk) and non-government-controlled Dokuchaievsk (30km south-east of Donetsk).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

**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>				
28/08/2020	4	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
30/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
28/08/2020	-	Trench extension (about 20m long, not seen in imagery from 6 July 2020)	Near Staromykhailivka (15km west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

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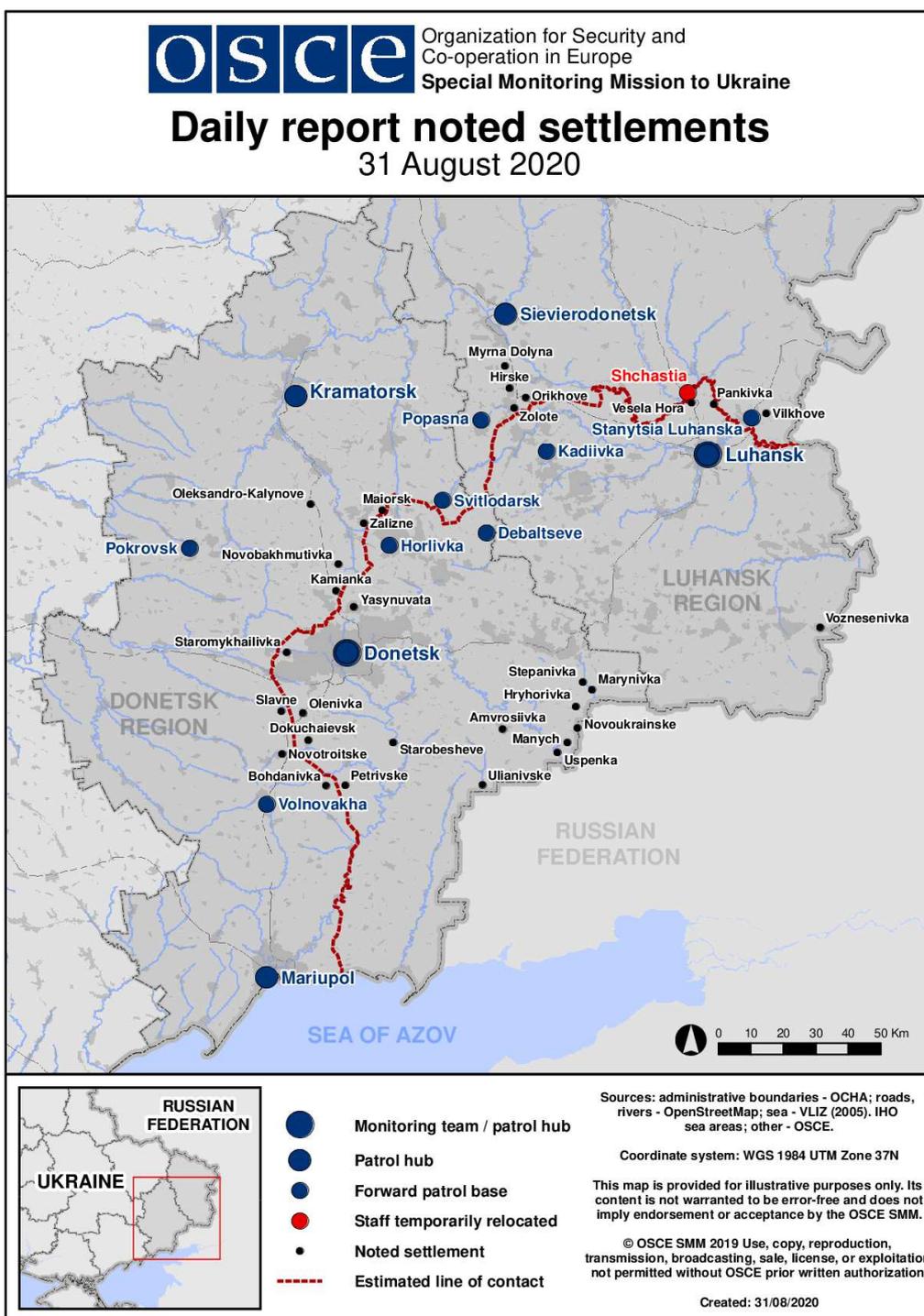
<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 August 2020<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.5km WNW of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km NW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 09:02
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km NW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 09:20
	5-6km NW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 09:45
About 4.5km NW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km WNW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 09:00-09:22
	5-7km WNW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 09:41
About 4.5km SE of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km NNW	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	29-Aug, 14:49
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-4km NW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 08:59
About 3km N of Oleksandro-Kalynove (government-controlled, 47km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Aug, 11:16
SE edge of Luhansk (non-government-controlled)	1.5-2km WNW	Heard	60	Shot	Assessed as live-fire exercise outside the security zone	Small arms	30-Aug, 11:20-12:11

<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.)