

Daily Report 208/2020

1 September 2020¹

Summary

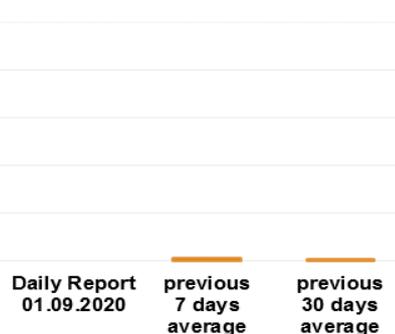
- The SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in Donetsk region (compared with none in the previous 24 hours) and none in Luhansk region (compared with 60 in the previous 24 hours).
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night-time hours, an SMM unmanned aerial vehicle observed people inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The Mission spotted recent trench extensions near Uzhivka and Vodiane, Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the 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 of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point near Izvaryne and at a checkpoint near Olenivka, both in non-government-controlled areas.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 31 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 and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

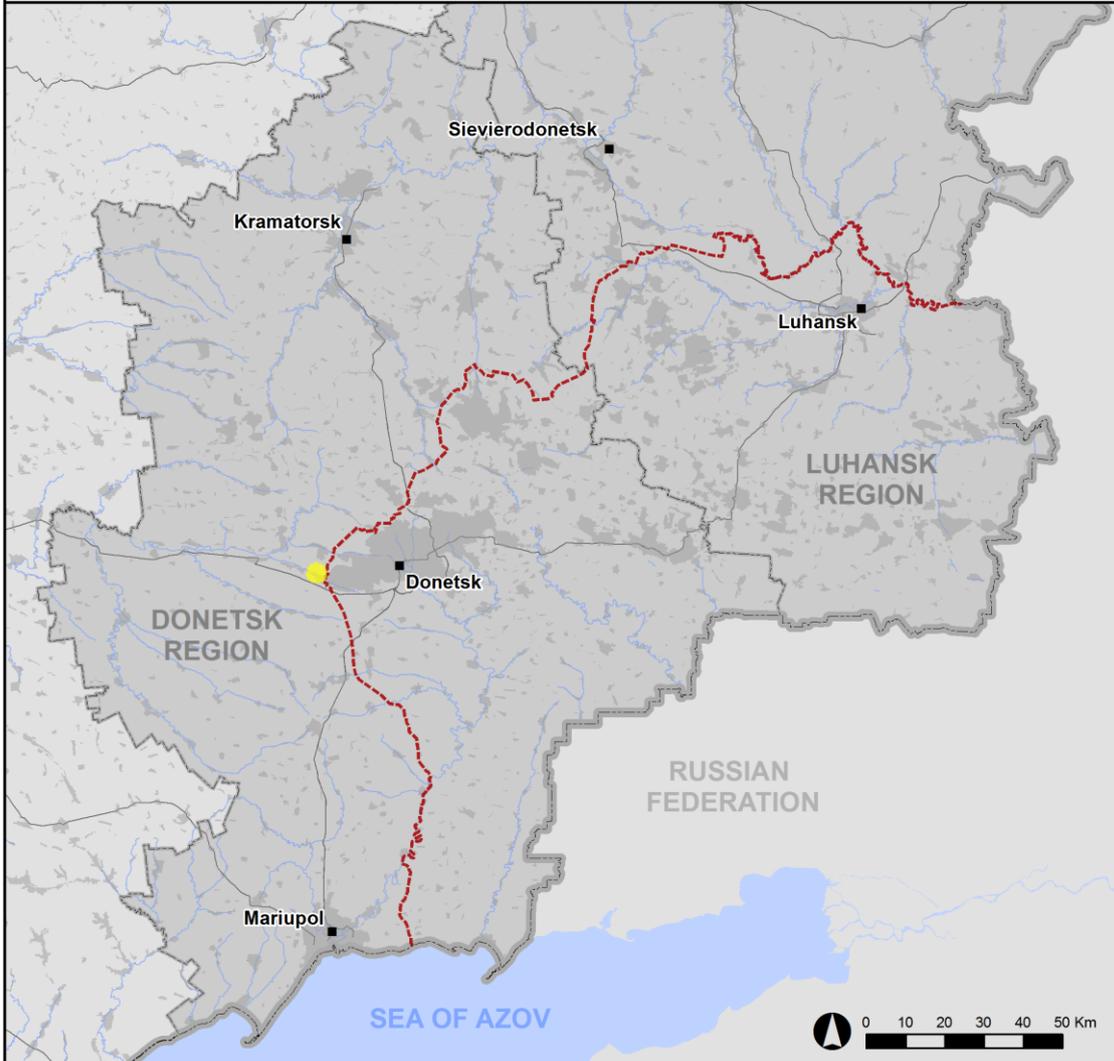
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

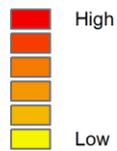
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 31 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: 01/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation, an illumination flare in an area north-west of Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south west 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 60 shots of small-arms fire.

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 830 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 148 explosions, two projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 667 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 30 August, outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), near the Prince Ihor monument about 250m south-east of the area's south-eastern edge, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted new roofing made of logs over an existing bunker system assessed as belonging to the armed formations and wooden logs piled up nearby (not seen in imagery 2 July 2020), as well as an anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) about 35m south of the bunker system (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 10 June 2020](#)).

On night of 29-30 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one in Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), about 1km east-south-east of the area's north-western corner (on the following night, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside the same position), and another two near the area's north-eastern corner (on the following night, an SMM long-range UAV spotted one person inside the same position). The same UAV also spotted two people inside former positions of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner (on the following night, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside the same position).

On 30 August, outside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted an armoured combat vehicle, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 50m north of its north-eastern edge and about 640m north-north-west of its north-eastern corner.

On 31 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 walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the same day, also outside the disengagement area, about 500m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw workers with heavy construction equipment taking measurements, welding and conducting groundwork.

On the evening of 29 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On the evening of 30 August, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside the same former position.

On 31 August, while positioned at two locations close to the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Presence of unexploded ordnances (UXO) near Petrivske, Donetsk region

On 29 August, outside the disengagement area near Petrivske, in a field about 800m north-east of its north-eastern corner and around 100m east of a road between Petrivske and Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk), which is frequently used by SMM patrols, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted an anti-tank mine (TM-62) assessed as belonging to the armed formations, with a broken carrying strap lying nearby (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 June 2020](#)).

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.

The Mission saw weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region (including in a training area), as well as weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including in training areas) (for further details, see the table below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

On 29 August, about 3km north-west of Uzhivka (formerly Leninske, non-government-controlled, 96km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a 20m- and 30m-long trench extension (running south to north and east to west, respectively) to an existing trench assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not seen in imagery from 26 August 2020).

Also on 29 August, about 500m south-west of the aforementioned trench and about 2km east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted a 20m- and 40m-long extension to an existing trench (running south to north and north to south, respectively) assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not seen in imagery from 26 August 2020).

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

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 31 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

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

On the same day, the SMM 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); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance, inspection and repairs to power lines near Vesela Hora and Donetskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km west of Luhansk); and 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) and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

The Mission also continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM saw a car and four pedestrians (women, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine. After two minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM saw three pedestrians (two women and one man, mixed ages) entering Ukraine and three pedestrians (men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

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

In Donetsk region, 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 checkpoint near Olenivka between 8:45 and 12:15 and between 13:35 and 15:10, the SMM saw in total 52 people (mixed genders and ages, including eight children), six cars and a minivan (about seven passengers, mixed genders and ages) travelling towards government-controlled areas. The Mission saw ten people (mixed genders and ages, including four children) and two cars queuing in the same direction.

The SMM observed nine pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) and seven cars traveling towards non-government-controlled areas. It also saw three buses with about 80 passengers (mixed gender and ages) in total being escorted by members of the armed formations (in one vehicle) towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city.

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

While at the EECP at 9:10, the Mission observed about 300 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and none queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

At the EECP, two men (in their thirties) told the Mission that they, along with eight other people (mixed genders and ages), had spent the previous night inside the disengagement area at the bus stop near the EECP after they had been denied entry into non-government-controlled areas at the checkpoint of the armed formations because they could not demonstrate that they lived in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. The two men added it had been their tenth and seventh night, respectively, staying inside the disengagement area (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 31 August 2020](#)).

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 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:

- On 31 August, at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, referring to a lack of permission from his superiors for the Mission to stay.

Delays:

- On 31 August, at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM was able to travel towards government-controlled areas only after 35 minutes.
- At the same checkpoint, the same SMM patrol was able to travel back to non-government-controlled areas only after 116 minutes.

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 29 August, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Zoria (government-controlled, 40km north-west of Donetsk) and Novobesheve (non-government-controlled, 21km south of Donetsk). The same UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Rybynske (49km south of Donetsk), Malohnativka (55km south of Donetsk) and Chermalyk (77km south of Donetsk).
- On 30 August, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over Pervomaiske (government-controlled, 17km north-west of Donetsk).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
29/08/2020	12	Self-propelled howitzers (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	9	Towed howitzers (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm),		
30/08/2020	20	Multiple launch rocket system (9K51, BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
29/08/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In an agricultural compound near Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
30/08/2020				
Non-government-controlled areas				
29/08/2020	17	Tank (ten T-64 and seven T-72)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
30/08/2020	25	Tank (21 T-64 and four T-72)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	
	10	Tank (one type undetermined and nine probable T-72)	Near Lutuhyne (20km south-west of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
29/08/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	5	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Trudivske (47km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk)	
	-	Trench extensions (40m and 20m long) (not seen in the imagery from 26 August).	Near Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk)	
	3	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	In a compound near Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk)	
30/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Bohdanivka (41 km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	About 50m north of the north-eastern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	

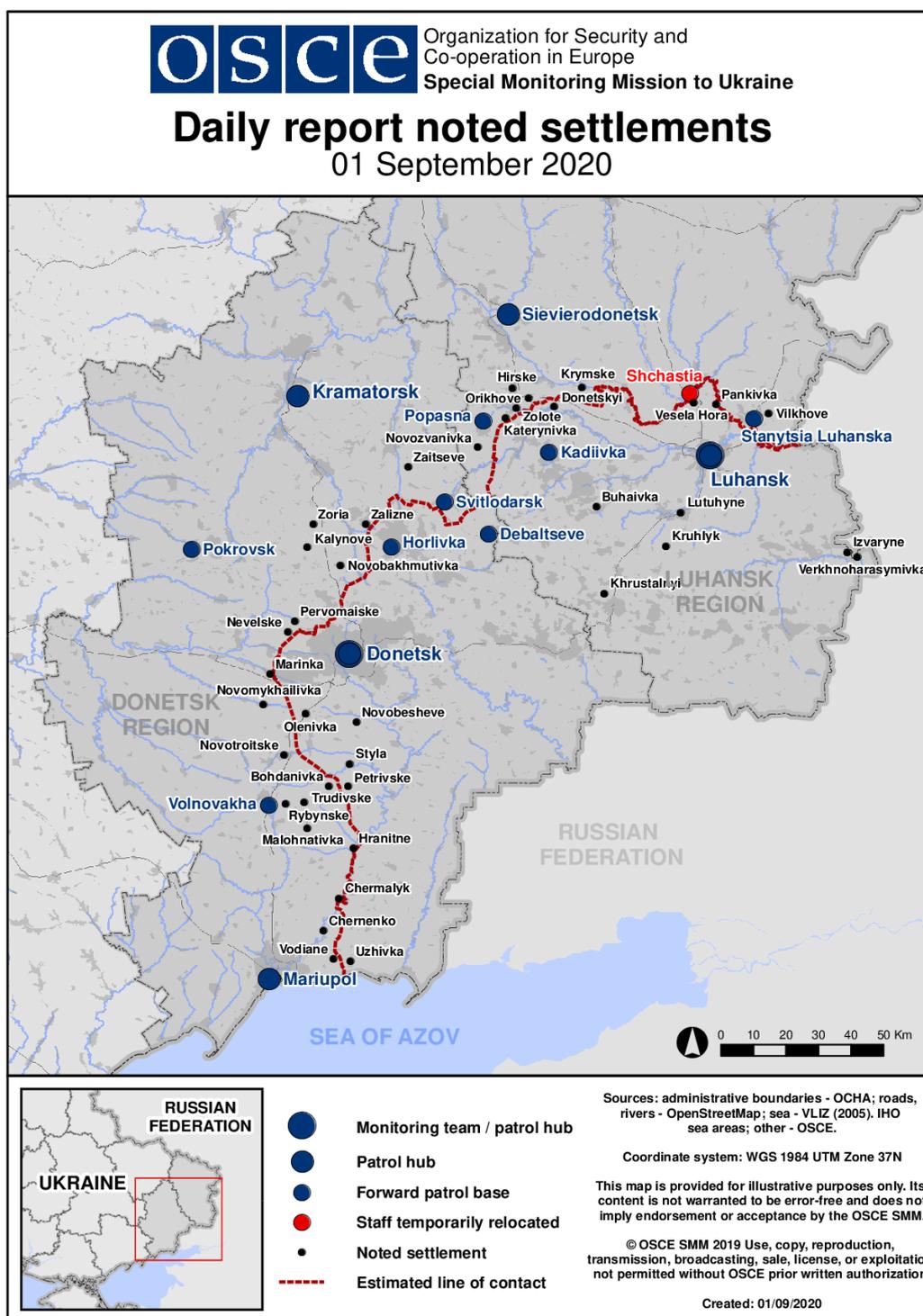
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a residential area of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near the Prince Ihor Monument, about 1 km south-east of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	-	New roofing over an existing bunker system and wooden logs piled up nearby (not seen in imagery from 2 July 2020)		
31/08/2020	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
29/08/2020	-	Trench extensions (20m and 30m long) (not seen in imagery from 26 August 2020)	Near Uzhivka (formerly Leninske, 96km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Table of ceasefire violations as of 31 August 2020⁶

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	30-Aug, 22:42

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.)