

Daily Report 222/2020

17 September 2020¹

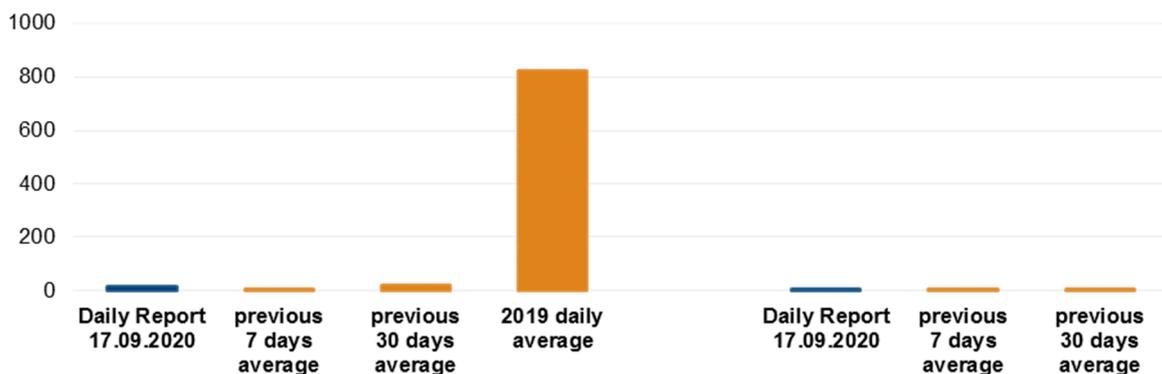
Summary

- The SMM recorded 14 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in either Donetsk or Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission 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 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 September 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.

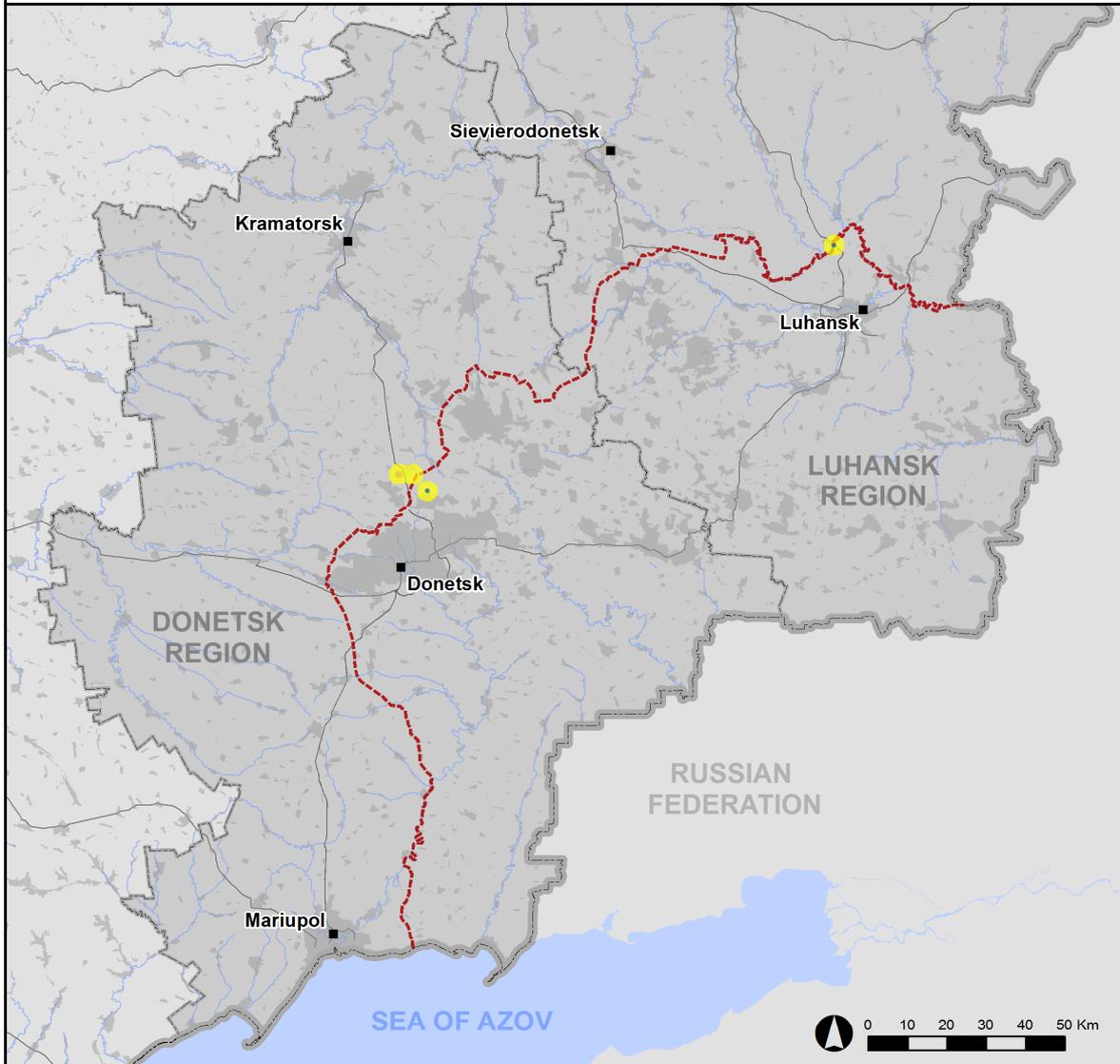
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

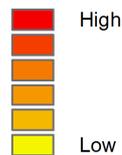


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 September 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: 17/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 14 ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no 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 1,052 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 193 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 837 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 16 September, while positioned in government-controlled areas of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On the night between 15 and 16 September, 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 Ukrainian Armed Forces near the railway track, about 900m west of road T-1316 and about 1.2km east of the area's western edge.

On the morning of 16 September, near the checkpoint south of the disengagement area, the SMM observed five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), together with four people in protective clothing, walk about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then return.

On the evening of 15 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m east-north-east of the area's south-western corner and another inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 16 September, while positioned near the SMM camera system located about 200m east of the north-eastern corner of the disengagement area near Petrivske, the Mission observed two men in military-type clothing (one visibly armed) walk towards Petrivske from the direction of Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk) and return about an hour later in the direction from which they came.

During the day on 16 September, while positioned at four locations near the disengagement area, 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.

The SMM observed tanks beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including near residential houses (see table below).

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

On 15 September, the SMM observed a total of 12 armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

Mines in Shyrokyne and Vesele Hora and unexploded ordnance in Vesele

On 13 September, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted five anti-tank mines laid across road M-14 on the north-eastern edge of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The same UAV spotted 14 anti-tank mines laid across the same road, about 2.5km south of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Reports of [9 May 2020](#) and [1 August 2020](#)).

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted 38 anti-tank mines laid in three rows across road H-21, about 150m south-east of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted eight anti-tank mines laid in a single row across road H-21, about 1.8km north-east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), as well as 20 anti-tank mines in loose clusters on the eastern and western lanes of the same road, all assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations related to the latter see [SMM Daily Report of 4 October 2019](#)).

On 16 September, on Stratonavtiv Street in Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk), the Mission saw for the first time six remnants of ammunition, four of which were assessed as metal tubes from rounds of multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) (BM-21, *Grad*, 122mm) and two assessed as tailfins of 120mm mortar rounds.

About 1.3km north-east of the central railway station in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 6km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the Mission saw that the [previously reported](#) unexploded ordnance (UXO) assessed as rounds of the MLRS were no longer present.

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above) and near Vesela Hora, south of the bridge in Shchastia.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work near the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk); railway maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); inspection of and repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (61km north-west of Luhansk) and Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km

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

north-west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned about 2.5km south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard three undetermined explosions within a 5km radius of the station.

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

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 10:45 and 12:15, the SMM saw in total 55 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 200 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

The SMM visited the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and saw it was staffed but did not observe any traffic in either direction. The EECP remains closed to traffic.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), the SMM observed 30 cars (including 15 with “DPR” plates), a covered truck with “DPR” plates (cargo not observed), three mini-vans (including two with “DPR” plates), a bus with “DPR” plates carrying about 50 passengers (mixed genders and ages), and four pedestrians (two women and two men in their thirties and forties) entering Ukraine.

The Mission also observed 14 cars (including six with “DPR” plates), three covered trucks (including two with “DPR” plates) (cargo not observed), a mini-van with “DPR” plates, a bus with “DPR” plates carrying about 50 passengers (mixed genders and ages), and three pedestrians (one woman in her forties and two men in their thirties and forties) queuing to enter Ukraine.

The SMM 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, 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, [SMM Daily Report 15 September 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:

- At a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage into the settlement.

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 weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/09/2020	1	Tank (T-64)	In a residential area of Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	5	Tanks (T-64)	At a train station in Khlivodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/09/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle	In a residential area of Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	3	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, 40km north-east of Donetsk)	

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 September 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	7-8km ENE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 09:17-09:19
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	2	Shot	N/K	Small arms	16-Sep, 10:31
	2-3km NW	Heard	9	Shot	N/K	Small arms	16-Sep, 12:27-12:37
Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	2-3km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 14:31

⁷ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by 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.)