

# Daily Report 228/2020

24 September 2020<sup>1</sup>

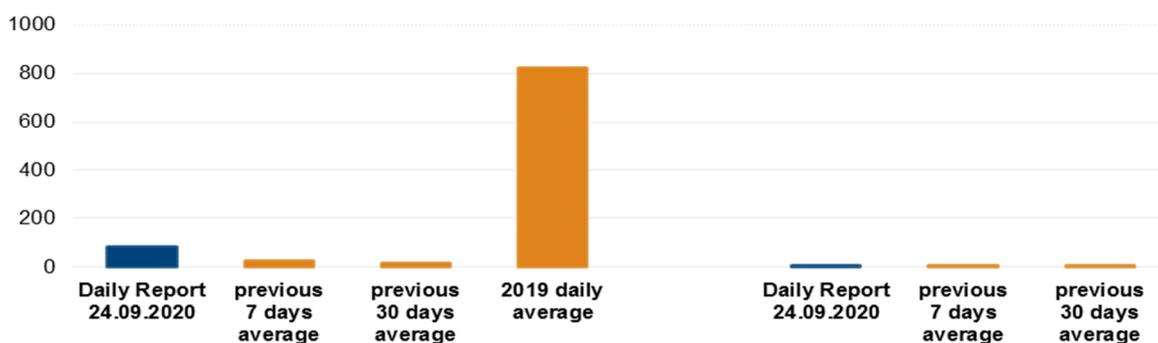
## Summary

- The SMM recorded 80 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 157 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of a man who sustained injuries from the detonation of an explosive device in Sakhanka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle 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 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point outside government control near Dovzhanske, Luhansk region, as well as again at a checkpoint in an area near the international border outside government control near Bezimenne, Donetsk region.\*

## 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, 23 September 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 camera in Petrivske was not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions

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

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

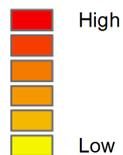


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 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: 24/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 80 ceasefire violations, all shots and bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as a live-fire exercise, in an area north-east of Novoselivka Druha (government-controlled, 23km north of Donetsk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded 157 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – an explosion in an area south-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). 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 1,309 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 218 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 1,069 bursts and shots).

### **Man injured due to the detonation of an explosive device in Sakhanka, Donetsk region**

The Mission followed up on reports of a man who was injured in the detonation of an explosive device in Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) on the morning of 17 September.

On 18 September, medical staff at a hospital in Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk) told the SMM that on 17 September, a man had been admitted with multiple injuries to the lower part of his body, including a traumatic amputation of his right shin, consistent with a mine explosion. They added that after performing surgery, he had been transferred to a hospital in non-government-controlled Donetsk city. On 23 September, the Mission spoke on the phone with a woman, who introduced herself as the wife of the man, who said that on the morning of 17 September, while returning from fishing in a nearby pond on the western edge of Sakhanka, her 58-year-old husband had suffered multiple injuries after stepping on an explosive device and that he was currently in a hospital in Donetsk city.

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske**

On the morning of 23 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed three people cutting grass on both sides of the road between the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) there and the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) near their checkpoint south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

Also on the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 1.1km north of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and about 20m west of the EECP, the SMM saw a recent impact crater in soft ground, with burnt grass around it and shrapnel inside. The Mission was unable to determine the weapon that caused the crater or the direction of fire.

On the evening of 22 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) 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.

On 23 September, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw seven members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by four people (two wearing plastic gloves and face masks and two in hazmat suits, each carrying a canister with a spraying device). At the same location, the SMM observed the two people wearing hazmat suits spraying a disinfecting substance from the canisters onto the Mission vehicles traveling towards non-government-controlled areas.

On 23 September, while positioned south of the disengagement area, about 3km north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk) the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 1-2km south-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 22 and 23 September, about 500m south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, the Mission saw 27 and 25 workers, respectively, with heavy construction equipment conducting works on both sides of road T-1316, including gravelling, levelling and clearing vegetation.

On the evening of 22 September, **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 Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s south-western corner. The same UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 23 September, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission 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 saw two mortars and a surface-to-air missile system in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>5</sup>**

The Mission saw armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region and an armoured recovery vehicle in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

### **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), north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

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

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway 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); repairs to power lines near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) and Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk), and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

Additionally, the SMM monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable the distribution of pensions in Zolote-5/Mykhailivika (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission 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 Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw four cars (all with “LPR” plates), a covered cargo truck (with “LPR” plates), a bus (with “LPR” plates and about 15 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and four pedestrians (three men and one woman, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also saw eight cars (including one with “LPR” plates) and three covered cargo trucks (with “LPR” plates) exiting Ukraine. After 20 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

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

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the 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 10:20 and 12:35, the Mission saw in total 60 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 55 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM also saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 13:05 and 14:15, the Mission observed in total 30 people (18 women and 12 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in total 35 people (23 women and 12 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

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, 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 border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage, citing orders from their superiors not to let the SMM pass.

*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 in violation

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/09/2020	1	Mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)	Near Nadarivka (64km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Towed mortar (2B9 Vasilek, 82mm)		
22/09/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	Near Tavrycheskoe (48km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
22/09/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
23/09/2020	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-CH)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
22/09/2020	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Uzhivka (96km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

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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.

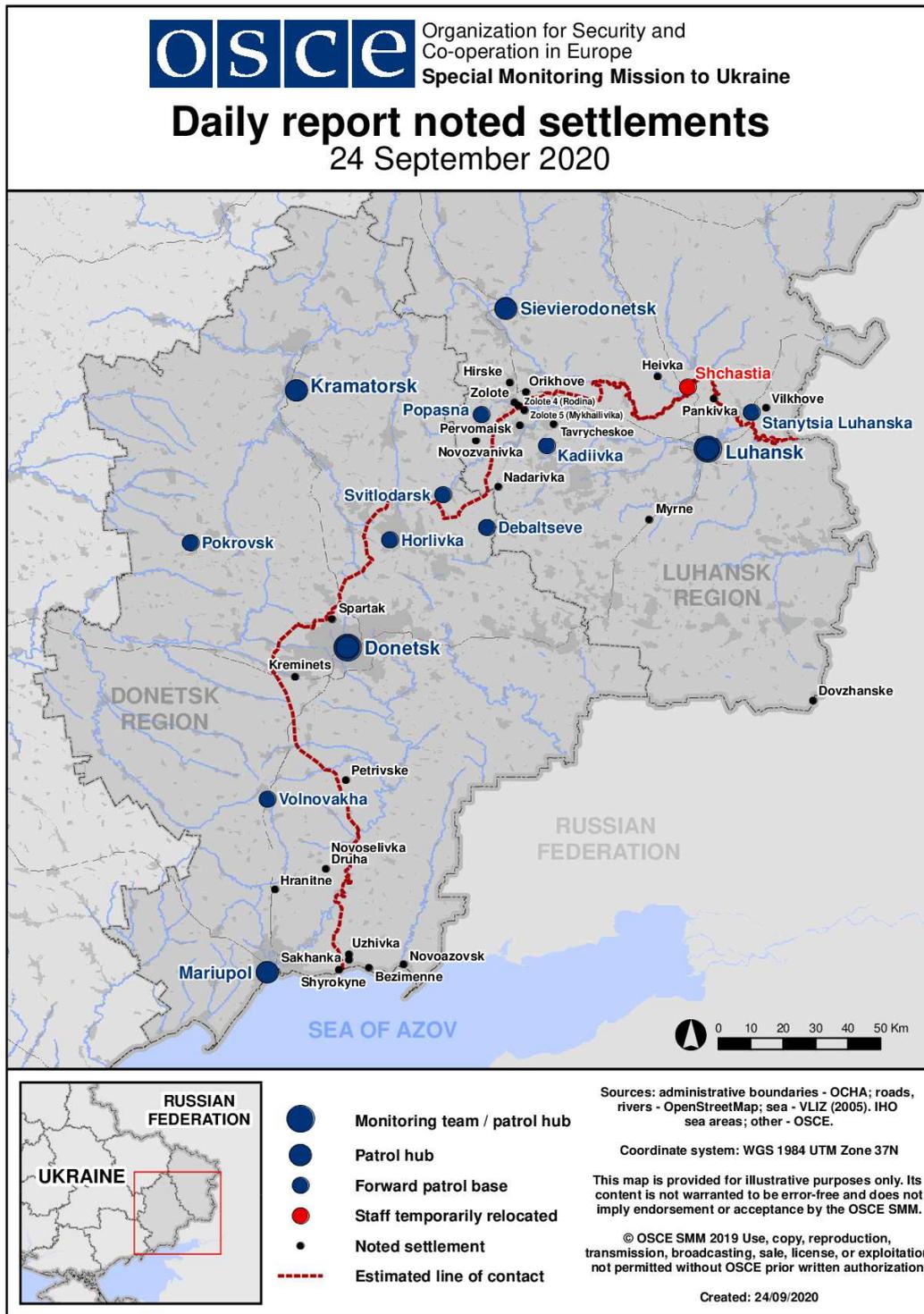
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 23 September 2020<sup>7</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 2km SW of Novoselivka Druha (government-controlled, 23km N of Donetsk)	5-6km NE	Heard	25	Burst		Small arms	23-Sep, 11:20-11:22
	5-6km NE	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	23-Sep, 11:23-11:30
	5-6km NE	Heard	35	Shot and burst		Small arms	23-Sep, 11:31-11:40
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 10:36

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<sup>7</sup> 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 regions<sup>8</sup>



<sup>8</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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).