



Daily Report 249/2020

19 October 2020¹

Summary

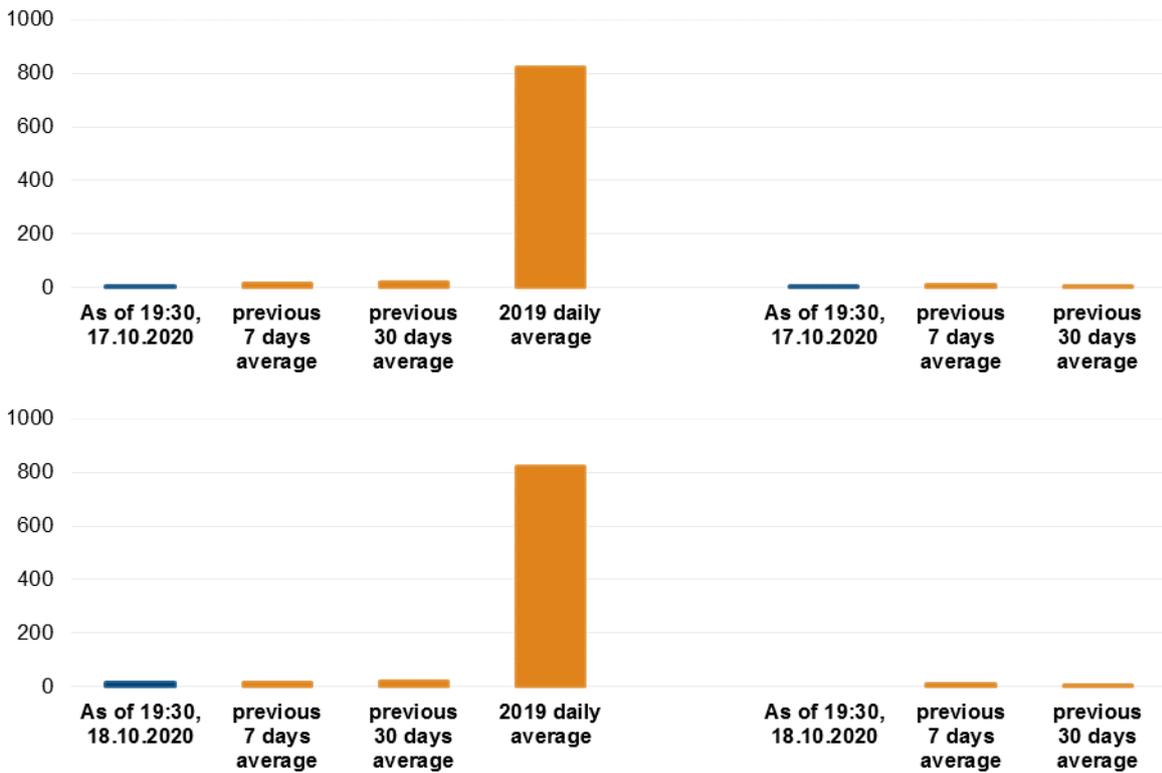
- Between the evenings of 16 and 18 October, the SMM recorded 22 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded nine ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 16 and 18 October, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted during evening hours two convoys of trucks, one of which entered and shortly exited Ukraine through a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region near the border with the Russian Federation where there are no border crossing facilities.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During daytime hours, an SMM long-range UAV spotted people inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The SMM 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 corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Kremynets, Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 18 October 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational on both days, while the one in Berezove was operational only throughout the second day.

³ Including explosions

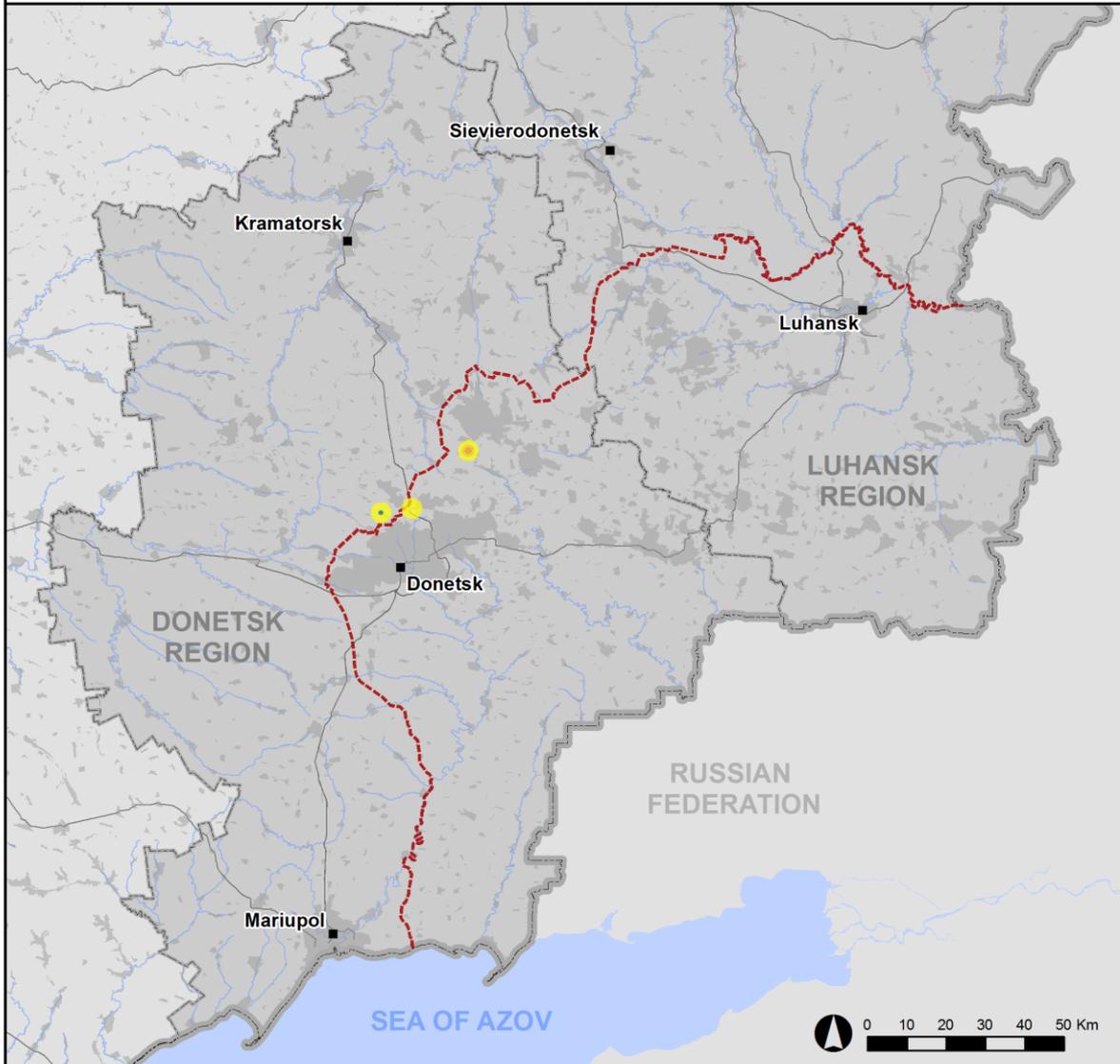
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

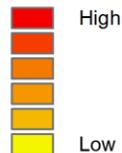


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17-18 October 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: 19/10/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 16 and 18 October, the SMM recorded 22 ceasefire violations, most of which in areas south of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) and south-west of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded nine ceasefire violations, almost all at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 16 and 18 October, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation, an undetermined explosion.

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 1,716 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 454 explosions, 20 projectiles in flight, 15 muzzle flashes, 22 illumination flares and 1,205 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 17 and 18 October, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 16 October, 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 spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 17 and 18 October, outside the disengagement area, the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom entered the disengagement area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On both days, about 200m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area, the Mission saw workers with heavy equipment working on metal constructions, paving the ground and conducting drilling work, reportedly in preparation for laying concrete foundations for a bus stop.

Also on both days, while positioned north-east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), near **the disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), 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 13 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines (including a multiple launch rocket system) in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, it saw 12 weapons, four in a government-controlled area of

Donetsk region and eight in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region (for further information, see the tables below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 17 and 18 October, 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). On both days, it facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work 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.

Also on both days, about 200m north-west of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint north of the bridge in Shchastia, on the eastern side of road H-21 at the junction with road T-1309, and from the aforementioned junction south towards the Shchastia bridge, the SMM observed workers with heavy equipment conducting groundwork, reportedly in preparation for the construction of an administrative centre, and asphaltting the second lane of road H-21. On 17 October, at the checkpoint of the armed formations located about 3km south-east of the bridge, the Mission observed 40 workers with heavy equipment spreading fresh asphalt, reportedly for a future parking area; preparing the ground for the laying cables; and welding a metal construction, reportedly for a future bus station.

On 17 October, near Vesela Hora, about 5-6km south of the bridge in Shchastia, the SMM observed 35 workers with heavy equipment clearing vegetation on both sides of road H-21 and cleaning metal barriers.

On 17 and 18 October, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), and maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote.

On both days, the SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. During the day on 18 October, while positioned near the station, the Mission heard one ceasefire violation, a burst of small-arms fire, within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Border areas not under government control

On the evening of 16 October, at 21:26, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a convoy consisting of two-military type trucks and one mini-van heading south-west on an unpaved road near Manych (76km east of Donetsk), about 200m west of the border with the Russian Federation, where there are no border crossing facilities. The UAV then spotted the vehicles turning and driving north-north-east onto road O0505 before stopping at a junction between the aforementioned road and another leading towards Kalynove (72km east of Donetsk). At 21:57, the UAV spotted a second convoy consisting of two military-type trucks entering Ukraine on the same unpaved road near Manych, where there are no border crossing facilities, and driving towards the stationary convoy. Between 22:12 and 23:00, cargo unloading took place, during which the UAV spotted 22 people, 12 from the first convoy and ten from the second. At 23:10, both convoys headed towards Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk). At 23:13, the second convoy diverged from the first in the direction of the same unpaved road near Manych and exited Ukraine at 23:37, while the first convoy continued towards Uspenka and stopped at a compound in central Donetsk city's Voroshylovskiy district at 00:57. One truck was seen

entering the compound while the other two vehicles and 12 people remained outside. The SMM UAV left the area at 01:00.

The SMM previously saw convoys of trucks at night in this area in June and July 2020 (see the [SMM Daily Report 10 June 2020](#) and [SMM Daily Report 14 July 2020](#)).

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska remained closed.⁵

On 17 October, while at the EECP at about 09:10, 10:20 and 13:30, the Mission saw in total 150 people (90 women and 60 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas. The SMM spoke to 12 people (six women and six men, mixed ages) who explained their various needs to travel to non-government-controlled areas, including children separated from parents, and elderly people with no caretakers. On 15 October (outside the reporting period) the SMM camera near the Stanystia Luhanska bridge recorded a person being allowed to cross the bridge from the government-controlled area to the non-government-controlled area and later being sent back to government-controlled areas after being denied further passage.

On 18 October, while at the EECP at about 09:10, 10:00, 12:30 and 14:50, the SMM saw in total 170 people (115 women and 55 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas. During its presence, an officer of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) told the Mission that three women had been allowed to exit government-controlled areas based on a permit issued by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 16 and 17 October, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region, at a SBGS security post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson) and at the checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), as well as along the coast of the Sea of Azov and the shores of Sivash Lake, and in the town of Henichesk (176km east of Kherson) and nearby villages.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv, 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

⁵ The EECP's temporary closure, in the period from 15 October to 31 October 2020, was published on the [website](#) of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 13 October.

outside control of the Government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report 12 October 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.

Conditional access:

- On 17 October, at a checkpoint near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations allowed an SMM patrol passage towards a checkpoint near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), only under the escort of one of their military-type vehicles, citing orders from their superiors.

Delay

- On 17 October, at a checkpoint near Kreminets, members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage only after two hours of waiting and after a person (wearing a hazmat suit) sprayed the SMM's vehicles with a substance from a canister.

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 16 October, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Klishchiivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Popasna (69km west of Luhansk).
- On 17 October, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over government-controlled areas south of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).⁶

⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/10/2020	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	At an airfield near Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk) (for previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report 6 October 2020)	Long-range UAV
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)		
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Towed anti-tank gun (2A29, MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	1	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	1	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)		
	1	Towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)		
	2	Self-propelled howitzers (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
4	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm),			

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

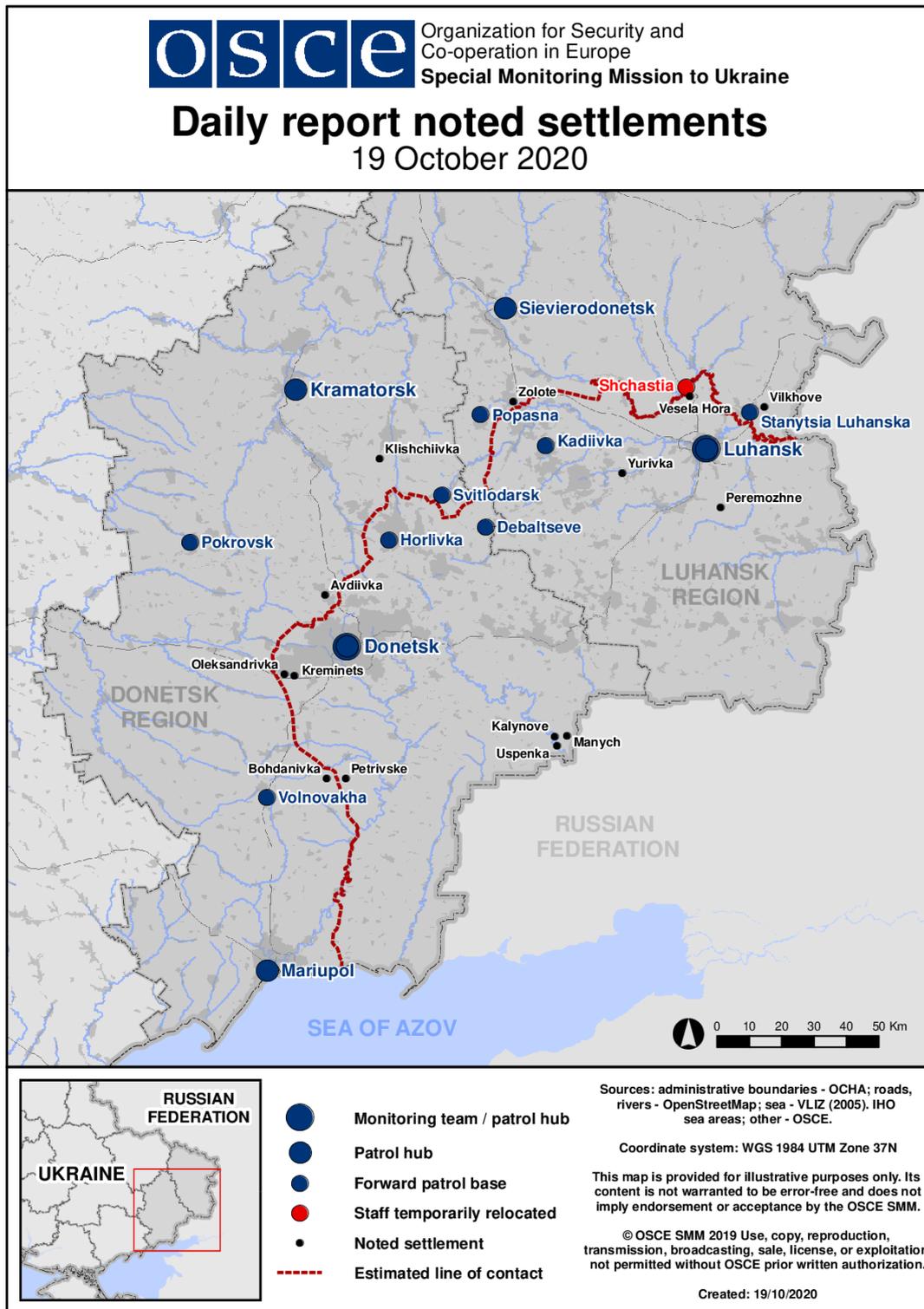
Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/10/2020	4	Self-propelled howitzers (2S19 <i>Msta-S</i> , 152mm)	Near the railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/10/2020	2	Tank (one T-64 and one T-72)	At an airfield near Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk) (for previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report 6 October 2020)	Long-range UAV
	1	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		
	1	Mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)		
	1	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)		
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)		
17/10/2020	1	Tank (T-72)	Near Yurivka (27km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

Table of ceasefire violations as of 18 October 2020⁷

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
On the southern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Oct, 10:05-10:07
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Oct, 10:18
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Oct, 10:26
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	18-Oct, 09:21
About 2.2km WSW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km S	Heard	14	Burst		Small arms	18-Oct, 16:15-16:27
	5-7km S	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	18-Oct, 16:28-16:33
	5-7km S	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	18-Oct, 16:34-16:37

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 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).