

Daily Report 250/2020

20 October 2020¹

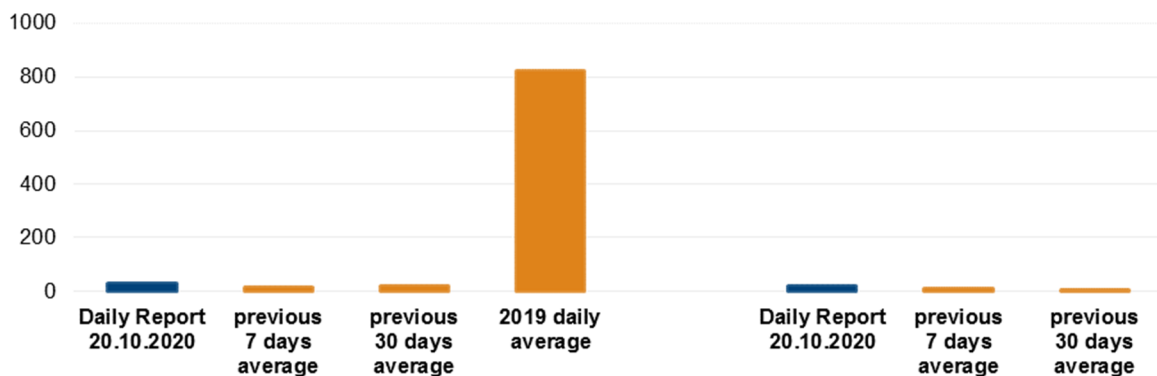
Summary

- The SMM recorded 19 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 18 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- 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 in Luhansk region.
- The Mission’s freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



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

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

³ Including explosions.

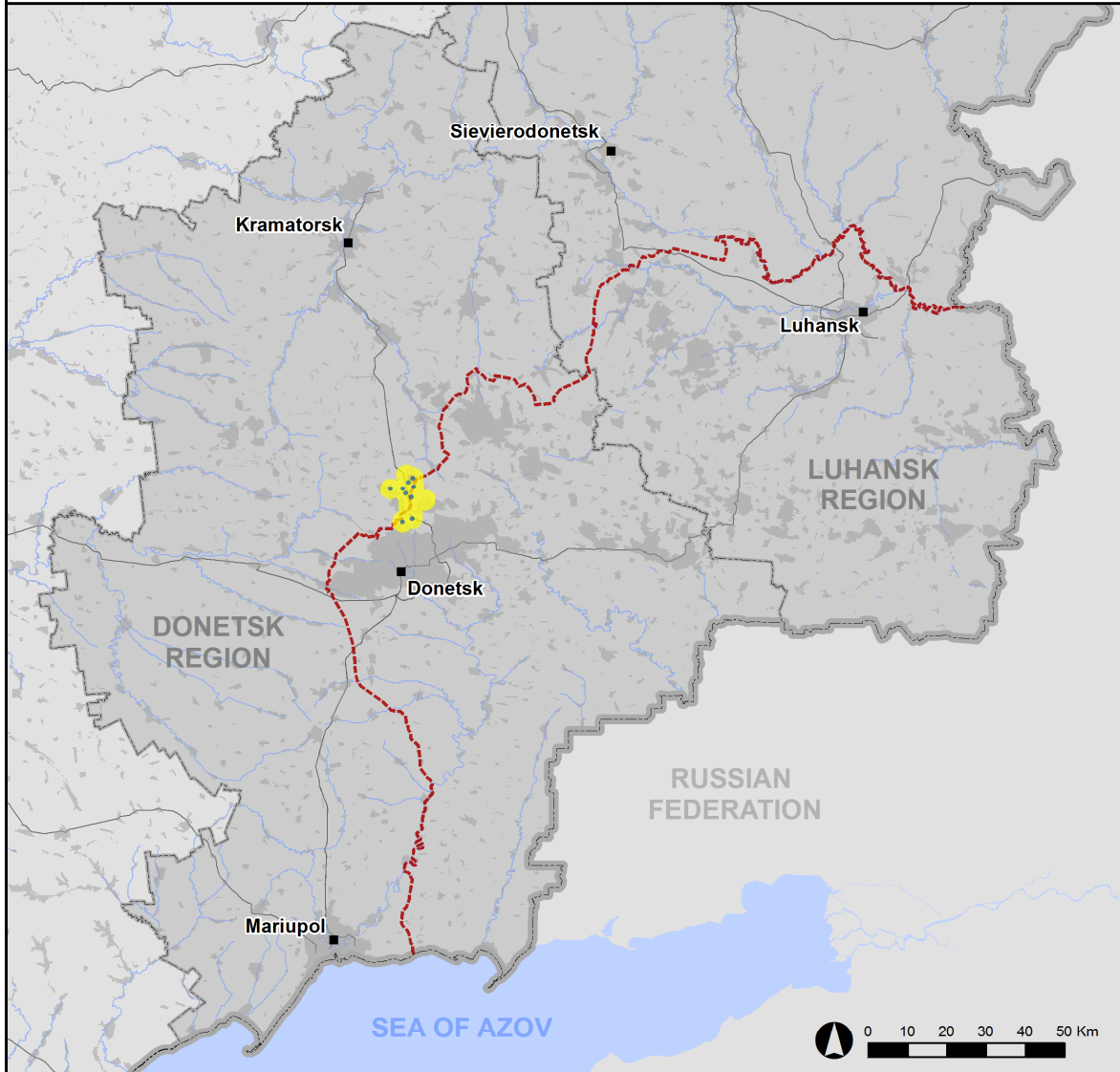
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

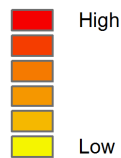


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 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: 20/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 19 ceasefire violations (including ten undetermined explosions), the majority of which within a 5km radius of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). While positioned about 500m north-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission recorded three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as live-fire training by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 18 ceasefire violations, all bursts of small-arms fire.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission also recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the SMM recorded a ceasefire violation in the region was on 15 October (see [SMM Daily Report 17 October 2020](#)).

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 1,735 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 464 explosions, 20 projectiles in flight, 15 muzzle flashes, 22 illumination flares and 1,214 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 19 October, 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.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

While positioned near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM observed a calm situation at the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

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 14 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines, all near a non-government-controlled training area near Novoselivka in Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

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

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

Anti-tank mines near the bridge in Shchastia

On 18 October, about 2km east of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) and about 150m south-east of the bridge there, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) [again](#) spotted 36 anti-tank mines laid in three rows across road H-21, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

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

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote and road H-21 south of Shchastia; and demining activities near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk).

At the junction of roads H-21 and T-1309, the Mission saw about ten workers on the western side of road H-21, about 90m north-west of the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed forces, where processing booths for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) are reportedly to be constructed.

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of DFS. While positioned in three locations near the DFS, it recorded eight undetermined explosions assessed as 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 was not operational. A representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine told the SMM that the EECP would remain closed until 31 October because of COVID-19 mitigation measures, with special exceptions.⁷

On 18 October, from 09:30 to 11:00, the SMM observed that five people (four women and a man, mixed ages) had been allowed to exit government-controlled areas.

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁷ 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.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, 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 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.

Other impediments:

- -On 19 October, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying between non-government- and government-controlled areas close to the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk).⁸

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.

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/10/2020	3	Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	2	Tank (type undetermined)	Near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	
	6	Tank (T-72)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/10/2020	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP-1 and two probable BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP -1)		
	3	Armoured combat vehicle		
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a compound near Novoselivka Druha (23km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	
18/10/2020	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Close to a residential area near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
19/10/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a residential area of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
17/10/2020	6	Probable Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	In a compound near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
19/10/2020	9	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is further proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	
	11	Armoured combat vehicle		

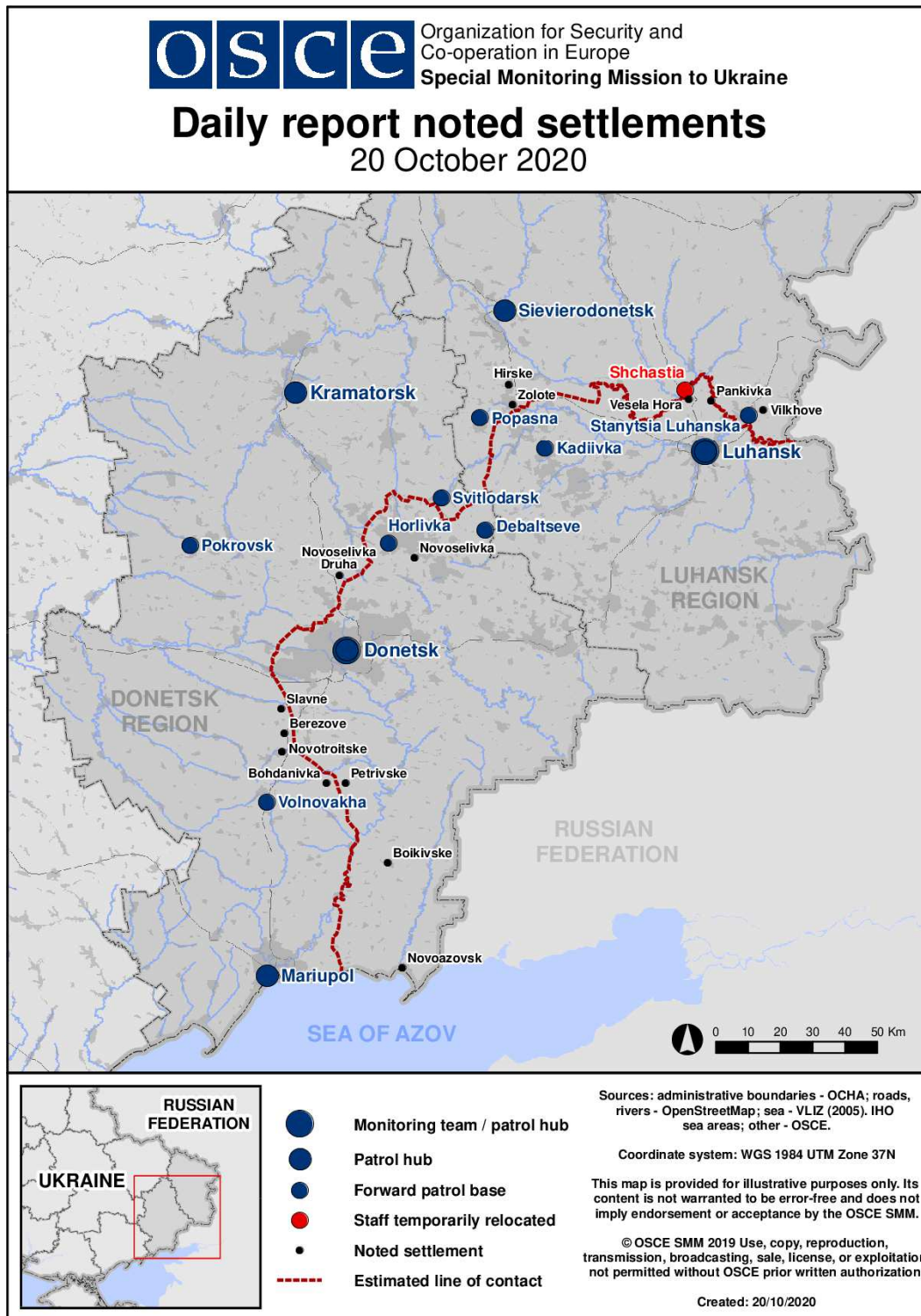
⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 October 2020¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 09:23
	2-4km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 10:41
	2km NE	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	19-Oct, 13:52
	5-7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 14:01
	2-3km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	19-Oct, 14:14
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 11:10
	5-7km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 11:18
	5-7km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 11:48
SE part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 09:23
	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 09:27
	2km E	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	19-Oct, 09:43
E part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 11:09
	3-4km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 11:17
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km N	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 14:05-14:10

¹⁰ 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 regions¹¹



¹¹ 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,)