

Daily Report 259/2020

30 October 2020¹

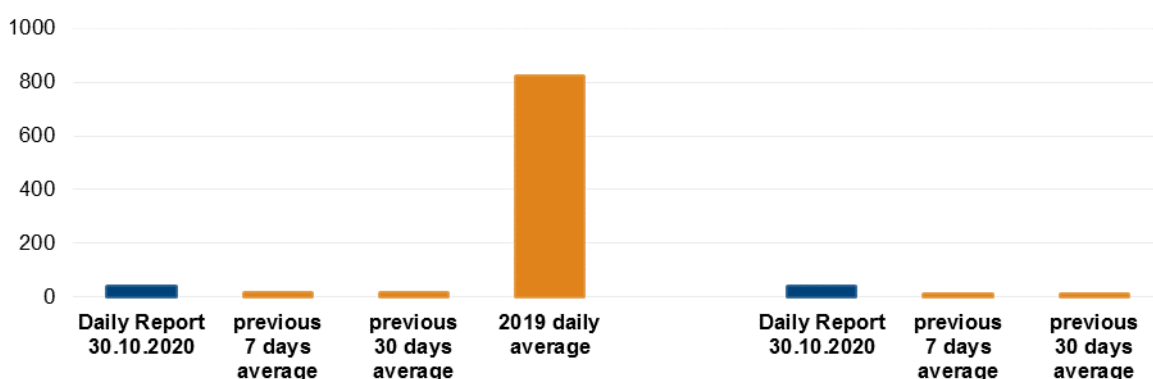
Summary

- The SMM recorded 30 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and nine in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
 - The Mission followed up on reports of two men injured by the detonation of an explosive device in Rubizhne, Luhansk region.
 - The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
 - The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the repair to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure, including repairs to power lines near Betmanove.
 - In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit check point (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska remained non-operational.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne, 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, 29 October 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and Berezove were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

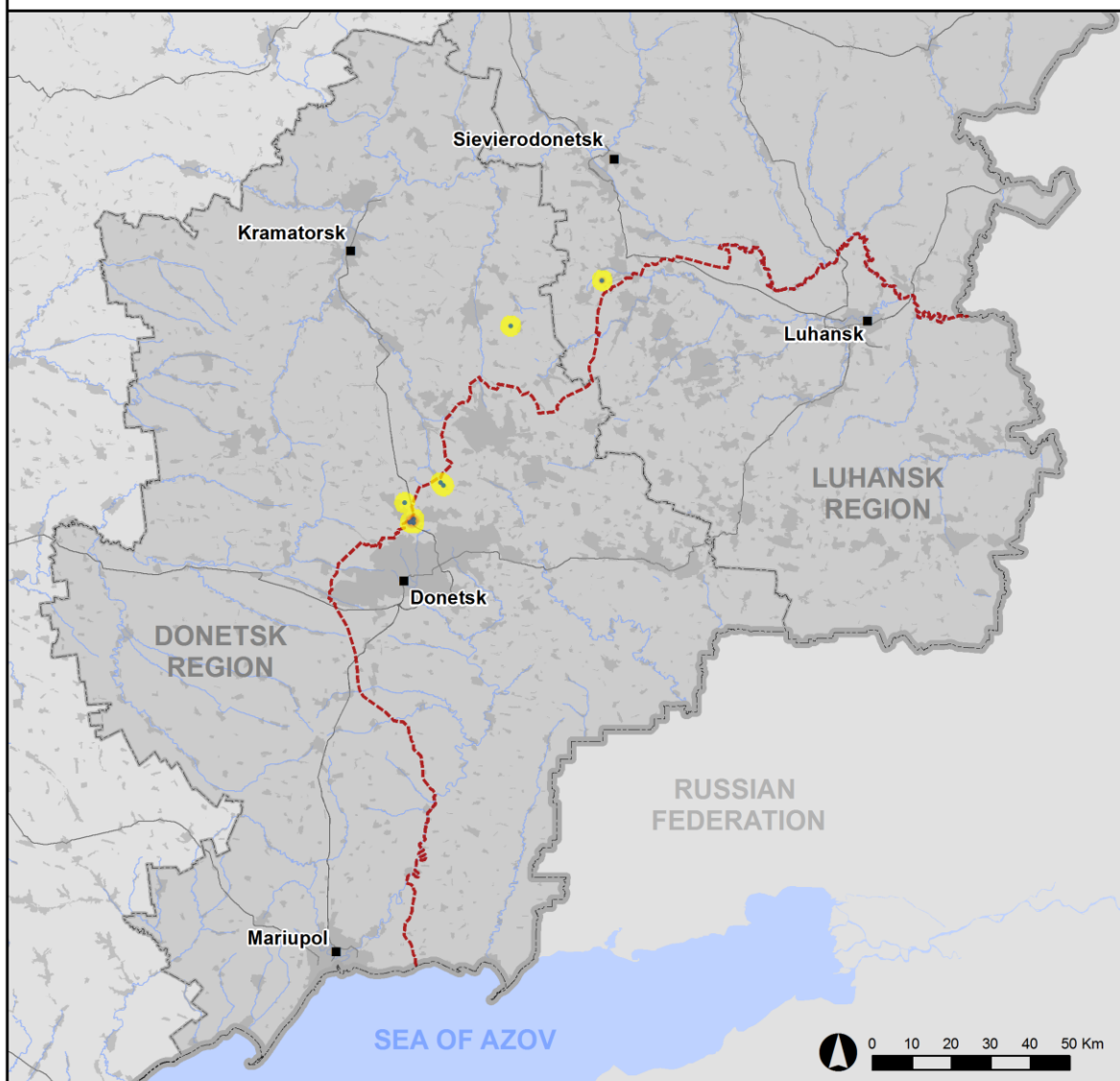
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

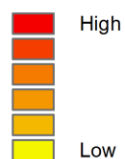


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 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: 30/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 30 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were explosions in areas east-south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and in areas south-south-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded nine ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#) the Mission 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 1,945 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 614 explosions, 31 projectiles in flight, 16 muzzle flashes, 23 illumination flares and 1,261 bursts and shots).

Two men injured by the detonation of a grenade in Rubizhne, Luhansk region

The SMM followed up on reports of two men (father and son, aged 61 and 33) injured by the detonation of an explosive device at their home at 32 Peremozhitsiv Avenue, in Rubizhne (government-controlled, 84km north-west of Luhansk).

On 29 October, a woman (age undetermined), who introduced herself as the wife and mother of the two men, told the Mission over the phone that on 19 October she saw her son holding a smoking grenade in the kitchen and that it had exploded in her husband's hand when he tried to take it from him and remove it from the apartment.

On 22 October, the deputy head of the investigative unit of the local police (man in his early forties) told the Mission that a man and his adult son had been injured in an explosion in an apartment in Rubizhne and had been taken to the city hospital. The same day, medical staff of the hospital (woman in her fifties) told the SMM that the father's right hand had been amputated and that he had sustained injuries to his abdomen, liver, intestines, face and legs; the son sustained shrapnel injuries to his spine and right leg and elbow. Both men remain in the hospital.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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 29 October, while positioned in Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard nine undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 5-6km south-south-west, assessed as outside **the disengagement area near Zolote** but within its 5km periphery.

On the same day, about 300m south of the southern edge of the area, the SMM observed five workers welding a metal structure on the eastern side of road T-1316. The Mission also observed one representative of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Joint Centre for Control and

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

Co-ordination (JCCC) and one deminer with a truck, about 700m south of the area's northern edge.

During the day, while near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM observed three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them).

While positioned in three locations 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.

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

The Mission observed an armoured personnel carrier near 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, as well as maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote – north and south of the disengagement area – and road H-21 south of Shchastia.

The Mission 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) and Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk); repairs to power lines near Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk); and demining of road H-21 near the bridge in Shchastia and demining of agricultural fields between government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

Between the intersection of roads H-21 and T-1309, at the former Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint on the northern edge of the bridge in Shchastia, the SMM observed 20 workers repairing asphalt on road H-21 and 15 workers with heavy machinery and equipment, reportedly for erecting checkpoint booths and fencing, and removing debris and off-loading asphalt.

About 3km south-east of the bridge and about 3km east of Vesela Hora, near the armed formations checkpoint, the SMM saw about 20 workers with heavy machinery and equipment, laying asphalt, working on the electrical system for light poles and installing a metal structure.

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

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned about 500m north-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission recorded an undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the DFS.

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 check point (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska remained non-operational.⁷

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 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 29 October](#)). 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 29 October, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage eastwards towards Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), citing orders from their superiors. While there, the Mission saw cars passing through the checkpoint in both directions.

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 civilian movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

⁷ Notice about the EECP's temporary closure from 15 October to 31 October 2020 was published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 13 October. On 28 October, Ukrainian Armed Forces published on their official Facebook page that the temporary closure of the EECP had been extended until 15 November 2020.

Delay:

- On 29 October, at a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas only after about one hour and 55 minutes (see [Spot Report, 29 October](#)).

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
29/10/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁸ 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 29 October 2020⁹

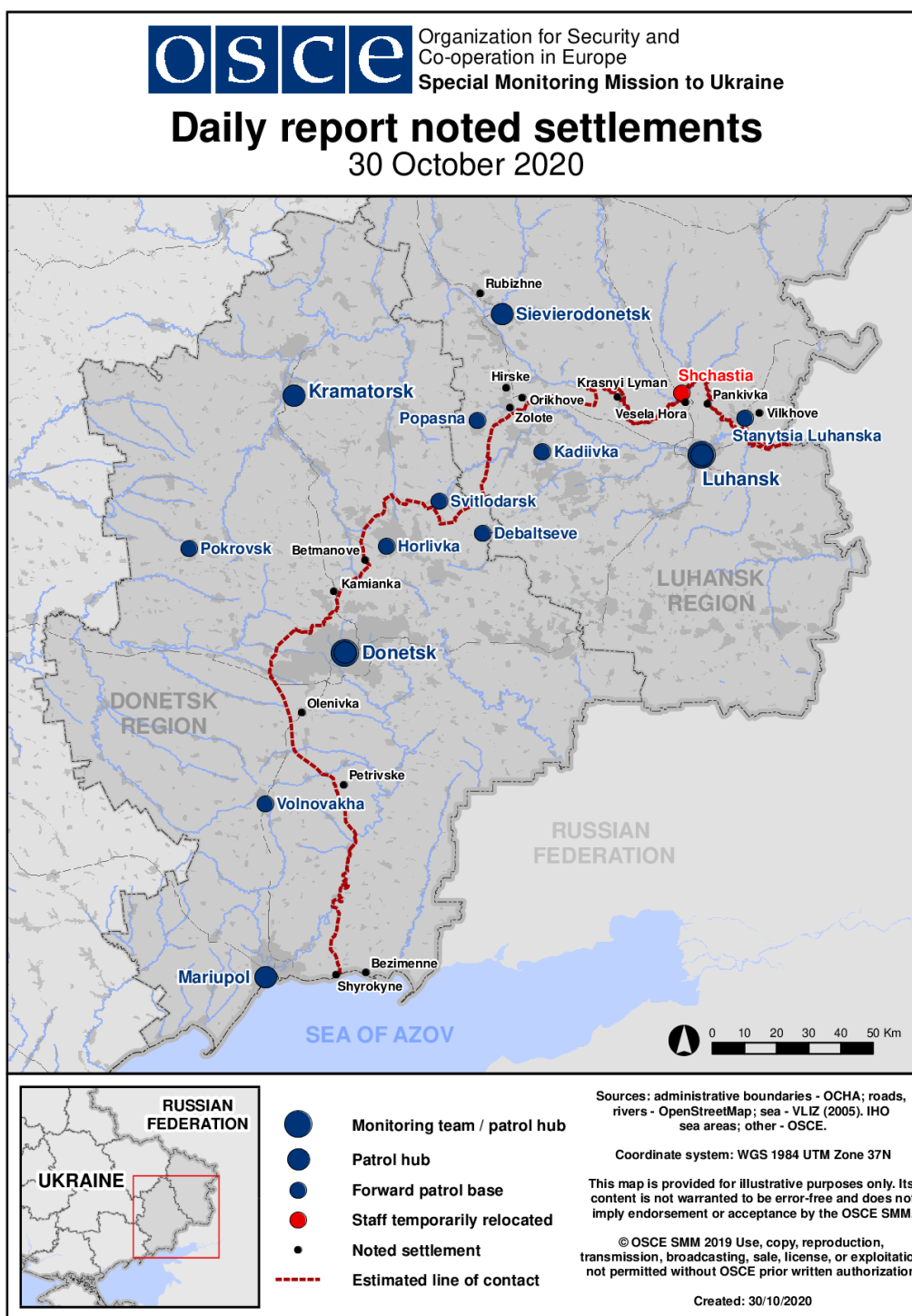
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:15
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the DFS camera	N/K	28-Oct, 23:17
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	Also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:17
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:17
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Oct, 23:18
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Oct, 23:19
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	Also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:19
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:19
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:21
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:22
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS	N/K	28-Oct, 23:22
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 21:24
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 21:24
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, subsequent to previous event,	N/K	28-Oct, 21:24

⁹ 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.

					also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka		
	2-3km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 21:25
	2-3km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 22:35
	2-3km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 22:42
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 22:56
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 22:56
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 22:56
	2-3km SSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 23:16
	2-3km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Outgoing, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 23:16
	2-3km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 23:16
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	28-Oct, 23:16
	1-2km S	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Oct, 23:22
About 1km NW of Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Oct, 11:26
About 1km NW of Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Oct, 12:40
About 500m NE of Kamianka	2-3km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Oct, 12:40

(government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)							
2km SE of Pidhorodne (government-controlled, 73km N of Donetsk)	8-10km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Oct, 11:15-11:26
Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km NW of Luhansk)	5-6km SSW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined (Assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Oct, 14:34-14:36

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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.)