

# **Daily Report 273/2020**

16 November 2020<sup>1</sup>

### **Summary**

- Between the evenings of 13 and 15 November, the SMM recorded 88 ceasefire • violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded four ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 13 and 15 November, the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire • violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the 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 Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 • pandemic, including at three entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region and at two EECPs and three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region.
- The SMM observed public gatherings in areas around polling stations during the second round of local elections on 15 November and found the situation calm and peaceful.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Khreshchatytske and Kreminets, Donetsk region.\*

Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 15 November 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.



<sup>&</sup>lt;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, and on 15 November, the camera at the parking lot south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was also not operational.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Including explosions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 13 and 15 November, the SMM recorded 88 ceasefire violations, including 80 undetermined explosions, in areas north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), most of which occurred during the night between 14 and 15 November. In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 13 and 15 November, the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations, most of which occurred in areas south-west of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk). In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions.

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 2,422 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 967 explosions, 49 projectiles in flight, 30 muzzle flashes, 26 illumination flares and 1,350 bursts and shots).

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

On 14 and 15 November, 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).

On both days, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). On 14 November, a member of the armed formations, accompanied by a person wearing medical protective gear, walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. On the same day, while positioned at two locations close to the area, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On both days, while positioned north of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (nongovernment-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 30 multiple launch rocket systems in violation of withdrawal lines and 56 weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, all in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, many of which were in training areas (for further information, see the tables below).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

#### Weapons storage sites

At a heavy weapons permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region

On 15 November, the SMM noted that one multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) was again missing.

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

The Mission observed an infantry fighting vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

It also <u>again</u> observed an excavator being used to dig in a field about 2.5km south of Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and between five and ten people standing nearby.

# Presence of mines near Dolomitne and remnants of ammunition near Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

On 13 November, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) <u>again</u> spotted nine anti-tank mines laid across a road about 600m south-west of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On 14 November, about 1.4km south-south-west of Oleksandrivka (non-governmentcontrolled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), on road H15, the SMM saw for the first time a metal fragment, assessed as the probable tailfin of an exploded rocket from a rocket-propelled grenade, which was not seen in the area on 7 November.

### SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 14 November, at a checkpoint of the armed formations north of Vesela Hora, about 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), the Mission observed four workers with heavy equipment.

On 15 November, near a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces north of the bridge, the SMM saw five workers assembling booths, reportedly for use as a bus station, and an excavator being used to dig a ditch.

On both days, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk). On 14 November, the Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining of agricultural fields near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

On both days, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

# Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

In Donetsk region, on 14 November, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) were operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) and near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) were closed.

On 15 November, the SMM noted that the EECP near Maiorsk was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic and that the checkpoints of the armed formations near Kreminets, Olenivka (non-government controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and Verkhnoshyrokivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government controlled, 85km south of Donetsk) were closed.

In Luhansk region, on both days, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational. It also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia were operational but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations near Zolote and Shchastia remained closed.

On 14 November, while at the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska at about 9:00, 11:00 and 15:00, the SMM observed in total 41 people (25 women and 15 men, mixed ages, and one child) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 30 people (25 women and five men, mixed ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction. On 15 November, while at the EECP at about 8:30, the Mission observed in total 150 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 80 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

On 14 November, while at a checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge between 9:20 and 11:05, the Mission saw in total 27 people (20 women and seven men, mixed ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 16 people (12 women and four men, mixed ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction. On 15 November, while at the checkpoint between 9:05 and 10:00, the SMM saw in total 15 people (eight women and six men, mixed ages, and one child) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and 40 people (22 women and 18 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel in the opposite direction.

On 14 November, the SMM saw a golf cart operating between the EECP and the new section of the bridge and a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint of the armed formations and a bus stop 1.8km south of the bridge.

# SMM observed a calm situation during the second round of local elections

On 15 November, on the occasion of the second round of local elections, the SMM visited public places in areas around polling stations in Kherson and Odessa and found the situation everywhere calm and stable.

The SMM continued monitoring in 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 <u>SMM Daily Report 11</u> <u>November 2020</u>). 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:

- On 14 November, at a checkpoint of the armed formations about 600m west-south-west of Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Verkhnoshyrokivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), citing "ongoing demining activities in the area".
- On 15 November, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (nongovernment-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Donetsk city's Petrovskyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre), saying that the checkpoint was closed and that since the COVID-19 outbreak, the road connecting the Petrovskyi district with Luhanske (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk) was also closed, except for local residents.

### 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 14 November, a staff member (man, age unknown) of the morgue of hospital no.2 in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) told the Mission by telephone that he would not be able to share information on a reported civilian casualty unless the SMM first inquired with those in control.

### **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	
13/11/2020	7	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where the same UAV also spotted 21 infantry fighting vehicles (14 BMP-1 and seven BMP-2), six armoured personnel carriers (MT-LB) and an armoured recovery vehicle (BTS- 4A) <sup>7</sup>	Mini-UAV
	2	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 Grad, 122mm)	In a compound near Sadovyi (57km south- west of Luhansk)	
15/11/2020	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 Grad, 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation		
		Non-governme	nt-controlled areas			
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)				
	12 Towed howitzer (D-30A Lyagushka, 122mm)		In a training area near Miusynsk (62km			
	2	Tank (one T-64 and one probable T-72)	south-west of Luhansk)			
13/11/2020	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela</i> -10)	5			
	10	Tank (seven T-64 and three T-72)	k (seven T-64 and three T- (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)			
	18	Towed howitzer (eight 2A36 Giatsint-B, 152mm and ten 2A65 Msta-B, 152mm)	In a compound near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)			

# Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation				
Non-government-controlled areas								
13/11/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Starobesheve (32km south-east of Donetsk)	Patrol				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne	1-3km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Nov, 19:03
(government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Nov, 19:27
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 01:20
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	1-3km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 17:32
N edge of the Zolote disengagement area (government-	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	14-Nov, 11:15- 11:16
controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	14-Nov, 11:55
N edge of	6-8km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 11:15
Popasna (government-	5-7km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 11:15
controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 11:55
3km N of	5-8km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 11:16
Pervomaisk (non- government- controlled, 58km west of Luhansk)	7-9km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 11:16
W edge of Berezivske (non- government- controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	6-7km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	14-Nov, 11:54
2.7km E of Vesela Hora	10-12km SW	Heard	40	Burst		N/K	14-Nov, 12:50- 12:51

#### Table of ceasefire violations as of 15 November 2020<sup>9</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</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.

(non- government- controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)							
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	14-Nov, 23:55
SMM camera	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 20:02
1km SW of	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:01
Shyrokyne	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Nov, 22:01
(government-	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:03
controlled, 100km S of	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:04
Donetsk)	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:05
2 one tony	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:06
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:07
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:09
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:10
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:11
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:12
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:13
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:19
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:20
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:21
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:22
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:23
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:25
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:27
	5-7km NNE	Recorded Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined Undetermined	N/K N/K	14-Nov, 22:28
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K N/K	14-Nov, 22:29
	5-7km NNE 5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion Explosion	Undetermined	N/K N/K	14-Nov, 22:30 14-Nov, 22:34
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K N/K	14-Nov, 22:34
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:33
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:39
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:41
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:42
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:44
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:47
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:48
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:49
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:52
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 22:56
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:01
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:02
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:06
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:24
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:26
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:27
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:33
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:53
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	14-Nov, 23:53
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Nov, 23:54
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Nov, 23:58
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Nov, 00:15
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	1	N/K	15-Nov, 00:16

5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Undetermined	N/K	15-Nov, 00
5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Nov, 00
5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Air burst	N/K	15-Nov, 00
5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Nov, 01



### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</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).