

# Daily Report 204/2021

1 September 2021<sup>1</sup>

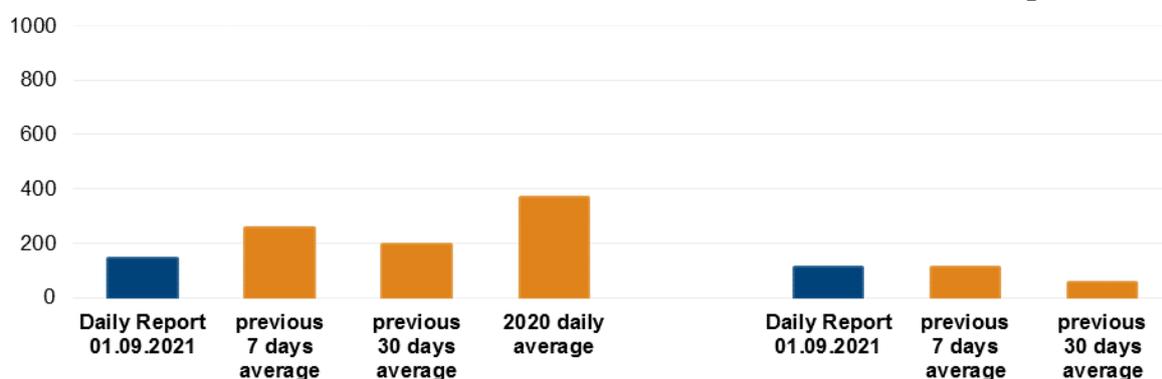
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 96 ceasefire violations, including 63 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 112 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 48 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 676 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM heard projectiles passing overhead and impact explosions near its position in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored a gathering in Lviv.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted at two border crossing points and two checkpoints in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as at the EECP near Hnutove.\*

## 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, 31 August 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

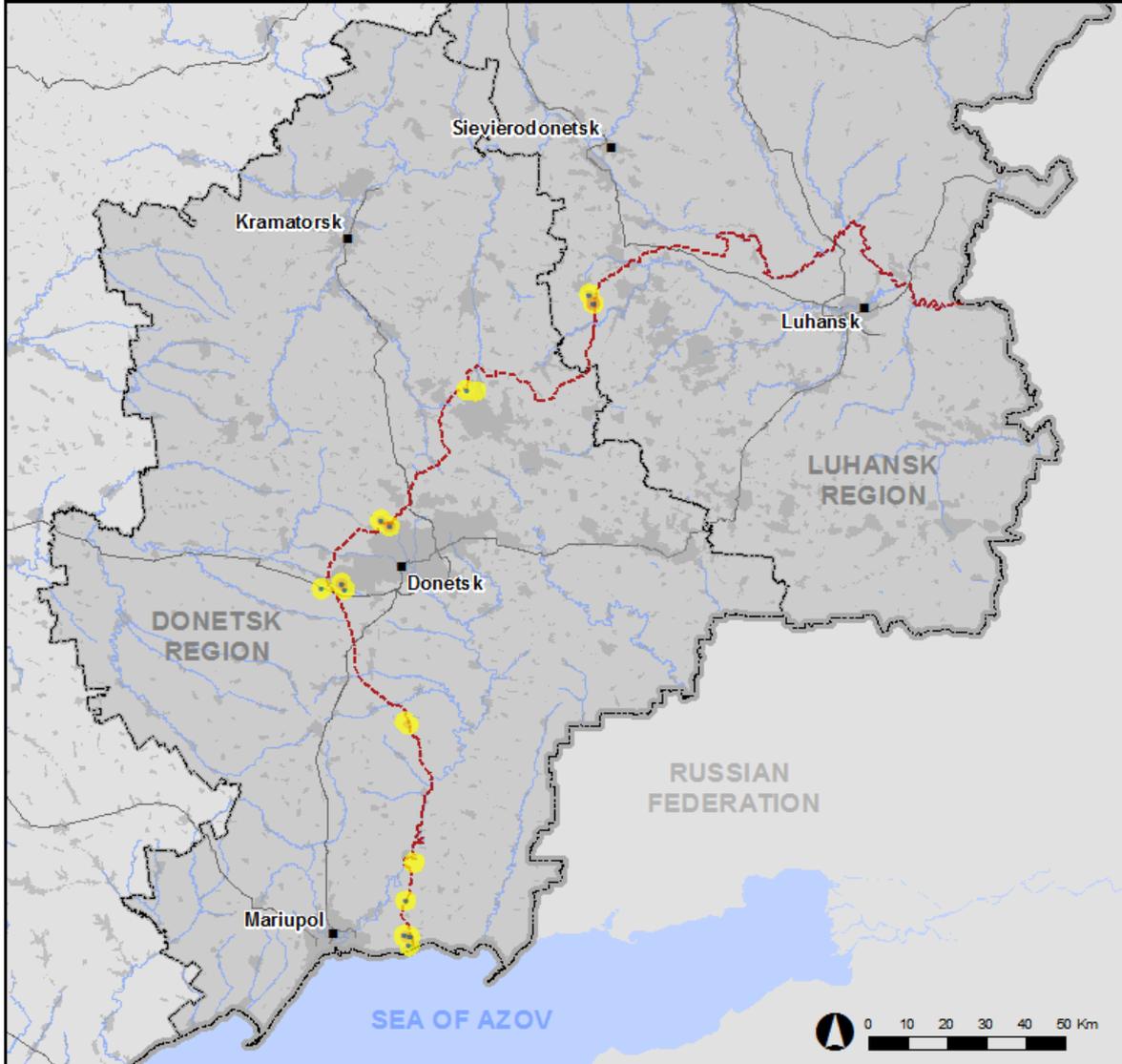
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

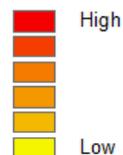


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 31 August 2021



#### 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: 01/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 96 ceasefire violations, including 63 explosions (16 impacts and 47 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-south-west and south-west of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and in areas near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 112 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 48 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions which occurred at a south-south-easterly direction of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 676 ceasefire violations, the majority of which also occurred at southerly directions of Popasna.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 53,706 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 15,493 explosions, 10,455 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 213 illumination flares and at least 27,275 bursts and shots).

### Ceasefire violations near SMM patrol in Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

On the morning of 31 August, an SMM patrol composed of five mission members travelling in two vehicles was positioned in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) to monitor the security situation in the area.

At 10:45, they heard five undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 4-6km west, followed by four bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire and ten impact explosions of automatic grenade launcher rounds at an assessed range of 1-2km north.

Three minutes later, the patrol heard a whistling sound of six projectiles passing above their heads, in an easterly direction, and subsequently heard six impact explosions of automatic grenade launcher rounds at an assessed range of 0.5-1km east. The SMM immediately left the area.\*

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

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) between the checkpoint of the armed formations and the southern edge of the disengagement area.

On 30 August, about 35m north the northern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), along the road to Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw eight workers (men, in their twenties) with a crane and a truck, moving concrete slabs from the eastern side of road T-1316 to a location about 50m further north-east along the same road. The Mission assessed that workers were constructing a wall around the [previously reported](#) concrete structure erected on the north-western side of the road.

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<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.

On 31 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area. Inside the disengagement area, about 350m north of its southern edge, the SMM saw again a [previously reported](#) underground structure covered by a green camouflaged net.

While flying over the southern edge of the area, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.\*

On the night of 30-31 August, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded ten projectiles in flight and one illumination flare, all at an assessed range of 1-3 km south-east and assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

On 31 August, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

### **Withdrawal of weapons**

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw 24 tanks in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Mission observed five surface-to-air missile systems and three tanks. In non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, the SMM saw three mortars, four howitzers and 46 tanks, some of which were located in training areas. (For further information, see the tables below.)

### **Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone**

The SMM saw an anti-aircraft gun in a residential area in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Mine hazard warning near Stanytsia Luhanska**

The SMM saw a red mine hazard marking (not previously reported) with “Stop! Mines!” written in Russian on the road surface about 500m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska.

### **SMM facilitation of the operation and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to water pipelines in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

## **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) were open, but did not observe any traffic passing through. The SMM also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

At the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission continued observing the fence replacement works. It saw that the fence on the western side of the road had been removed and that five workers (men, in their twenties and thirties) were installing 3m metal poles. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 30 August 2021](#).)

The Mission noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

## **Border areas outside government control<sup>6</sup>**

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed three cars (including one with "LPR" plates), one covered cargo truck (with "LPR" plates) and 14 people (mixed gender and ages, including four children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission also observed six cars and 35 people (mixed gender and ages) exiting Ukraine. After about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

While at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw six people (four women and two men, in their twenties to thirties) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission saw three cars (including two with "LPR" plates) queuing to exit Ukraine. After about 20 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

## **The SMM monitored a gathering in Lviv**

On 30 August, at the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred Memorial at Maksyma Kryvonosa Street in Lviv, the SMM saw a gathering of about 30 people (mixed ages and genders), including a representative of the clergy and representatives of local authorities, commemorating those who lost their lives during Maidan-related events in 2014. The SMM observed a calm situation.

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<sup>6</sup> According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, 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 Minsk agreements 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 Coordination (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 Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing orders “from his superiors”.
- At a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing orders “from his superiors”.
- At a checkpoint near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), citing “demining activities”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At the entry-exit checkpoint near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), a representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (a woman, in her thirties) denied the Mission access to the checkpoint, citing “lack of permission for passing through”.

#### *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.

#### Delay:

- At a checkpoint in Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations, one of them visibly armed, allowed the SMM passage northwards towards Lukove (non-government-controlled, 72km south of Donetsk) only after about 30 minutes of waiting, citing “the safety of the SMM”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed cars passing through the checkpoint in both directions.

Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three flights: once over areas near Hrechyshkyne (government-controlled, 45km north-west of Luhansk), over areas near Putylyne (government-controlled, 44km north-west of Luhansk) and over the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).
- Medical staff at Hospital No. 14 in Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre) refused to share information related to an alleged civilian casualty, citing a need for prior authorisation from those in control.
- Medical staff at the hospital in Starobesheve (non-government-controlled, 32km south-east of Donetsk) refused to share information related to an alleged civilian casualty, citing a need for permission from those in control.
- While positioned in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM patrol heard the sound of six projectiles passing overhead in an easterly direction, followed by six impact explosions of automatic grenade launcher rounds at an assessed range of 0.5-1km east. The SMM immediately left the area.

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<sup>7</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

## Tables of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/8/2021	24	Tank (T-72)	Near Loskutivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
30/8/2021	5	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	Near Kasianivka (81km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
31/8/2021	3	Tank (T-72)	Near Lysychansk (75km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
27/8/2021	26	Tank (20 T-72 variant, three T-64 and three undetermined)	Near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	
	1	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	3	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)		
	16	Tank (13 T-72 and three T-64)		
28/8/2021	4	Tank (three T-72 and one T-64)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
31/8/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Zolote-3/Stakhanovets (61km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

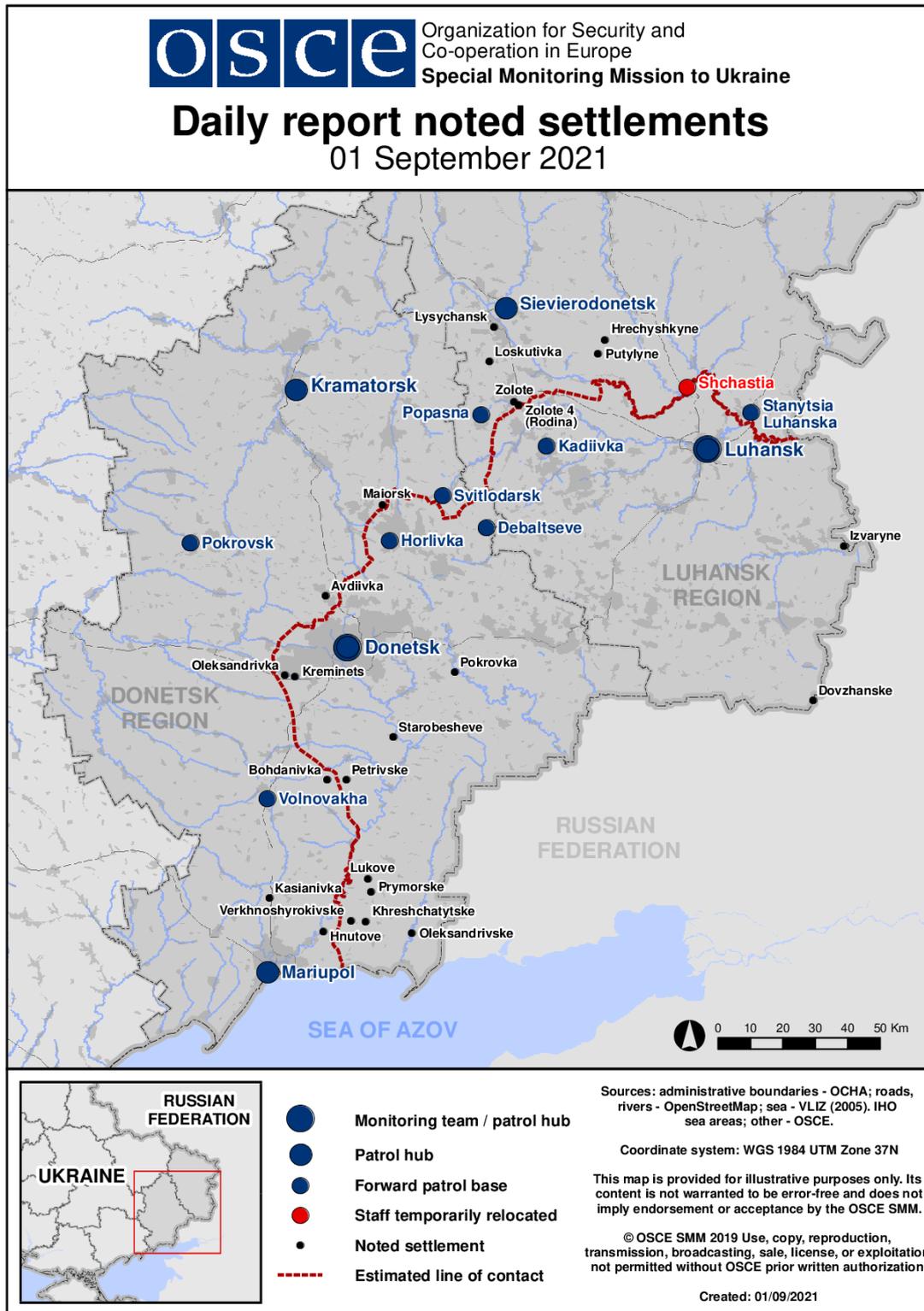
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 31 August 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske )	N/K	31-Aug, 00:15
	1-3km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske )	N/K	31-Aug, 00:15
	1-3km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske )	N/K	31-Aug, 00:23
	1-3km SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske )	N/K	31-Aug, 00:50
	1-3km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	31-Aug, 01:08
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	30-Aug, 21:46
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Aug, 22:20
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	N to S	N/K	31-Aug, 02:36
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Aug, 20:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	30-Aug, 20:25
	1-3km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Aug, 23:40
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	30-Aug, 23:40
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	30-Aug, 23:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Aug, 23:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 00:00
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	31-Aug, 00:24
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	31-Aug, 00:24
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 00:42
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	31-Aug, 00:55
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 00:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	31-Aug, 02:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	31-Aug, 02:03
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	31-Aug, 02:57	
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	31-Aug, 02:57	
About 6km N of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km NW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 10:20
Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km W	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 10:45
	1-2km N	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	31-Aug, 10:45-10:46
	1-2km N	Heard	10	Explosion	Impact	AGL	31-Aug, 10:46-10:47
	0.5-1km E	Heard	6	Explosion	Impact	AGL	31-Aug, 10:48

<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.

<b>SMM position</b>	<b>Event location</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Date, time</b>
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	6-8km SSW	Heard	18	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 14:35-14:45
	6-8km SW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 14:45-14:55
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	7-10km SSE	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:02-05:07
	7-10km SSE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:11-05:15
	7-10km SSE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:19
	5-7km SSE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:20
	7-10km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:22
	5-7km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:24-05:29
	7-10km SSE	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Aug, 05:26-05:33

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



<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).