

OSCCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

# **Daily Report 234/2021**

6 October 2021<sup>1</sup>

#### **Summary**

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 253 ceasefire violations, including 17 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 178 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region the SMM recorded eight ceasefire violations, including five explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of damage to a coalmine facility near non-governmentcontrolled Yakovlivka and five civilian properties in non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire near non-government-controlled Nova Marivka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Near the disengagement area near Petrivske, it heard ceasefire violations assessed as a live-fire exercise.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited four border crossing points outside government control.
- The Mission monitored the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at three checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region, at their checkpoint near Kreminets, Donetsk region, and at a border crossing point outside government control near Izvaryne, Luhansk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of jamming.\*

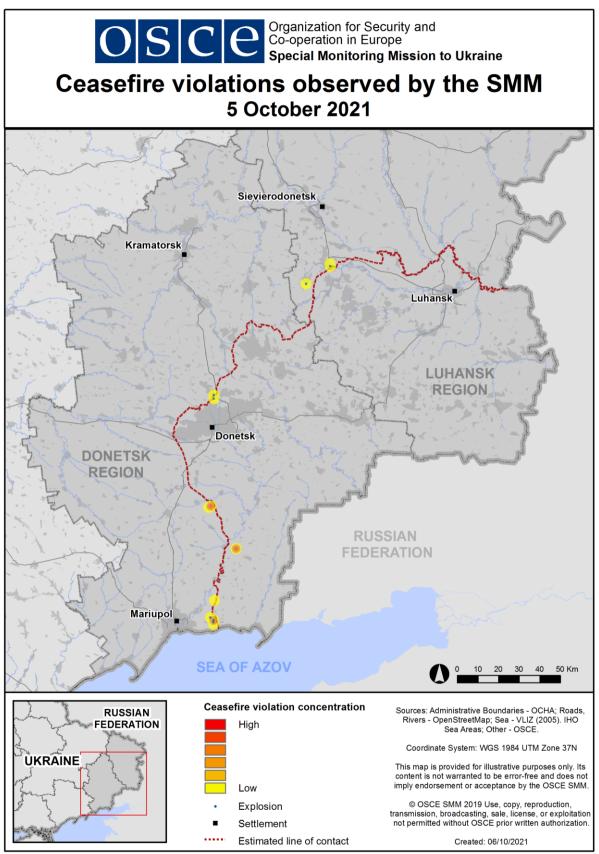


Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 5 October 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

- For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera at the Oktiabr mine was not operational.
- <sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

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

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 253 ceasefire violations, including 17 explosions (two airbursts, five impacts, five outgoing and five undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred west of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), including 88 shots of small-arms fire assessed as a live-fire exercise in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone (see below), in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), and in Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), where the Mission heard 86 bursts and shots of small-arms fire assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (see below). In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded 178 ceasefire violations in the region, most of which occurred inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded eight ceasefire violations, including five undetermined explosions. Five ceasefire violations occurred at northerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the TCG 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 Mission has recorded at least 62,647 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 17,188 explosions, 12,387 projectiles in flight, 277 muzzle flashes, 247 illumination flares and at least 32,548 bursts and shots).

## Damage to a coalmine facility near non-government-controlled Yakovlivka and civilian properties in non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region

On 2 October, the Mission followed up on reports of damage to a coal mining facility near Yakovlivka (non-government-controlled, 10km north of Donetsk), belonging to the Zasiadka mine and assessed as probably abandoned. (For previous observations on the Zasiadka mine, please see <u>SMM Daily Report 13 September 2021</u>.)

At the base of a lightning tower in the south-western part of the facility, an SMM mini-UAV spotted one recent crater and a nearby concrete beam which had broken in half. The UAV also spotted seven other recent craters: one about 60m north-north-west, two about 110m north-north-west and one about 80m east-north-east of the first crater, all near the mine facility, as well as two craters in a field about 160m north-north-west and one about 290m north-north-west of the first crater. The Mission assessed the craters as recent and caused by probable 122mm artillery rounds fired from northerly directions. The damage to the beam was also assessed as recent and caused by a probable impact explosion of a 122mm artillery round fired from between a north-north-westerly and a northerly direction.

On 3 October, the SMM followed up on reports of damage to five civilian properties in the western part of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), located 2km from the contact line.

At 1/1 Sukhumska Street, the Mission observed a burnt tree in a garden about 20m west of an uninhabited one-storey house. Two women (in their forties and seventies), who introduced themselves as residents of neighbouring houses, told the Mission that on the evening of 28 August they heard multiple explosions, one of which was nearby, and thereafter had seen that an apple tree in the garden of the house was charred.

At 3/1 Sukhumska Street, about 40m north-west of the charred tree described above, the SMM saw three holes consistent with fragmentation damage in the south-facing wall of an inhabited single-storey house. A man (in his seventies), who introduced himself as the owner of the house, said that on the evening of 28 August he had been at home with his wife when they heard an explosion nearby.

At 3/2 Sukhumska Street, about 35m north-west of the charred tree described above, the Mission observed two holes consistent with fragmentation damage in the south-facing main entrance of an inhabited single-storey house. A man and a woman (in their sixties), who introduced themselves as the owners of the house, told the SMM that they had been away on 28 August but had seen the damage to the door when they returned to the house on 29 August.

At 2/1 Yaroshenka Street, about 50m south of the charred tree described above, the SMM saw three holes consistent with fragmentation damage in the north-facing wall of an inhabited single-storey house. A woman (in her seventies), who introduced herself as the owner of the house, told the SMM that on the evening of 28 August she had been in the kitchen of the house when she heard an explosion nearby and sought shelter in the corridor.

At 2/2 Yaroshenka Street, about 45m south of the charred tree described above, the Mission observed a hole consistent with fragmentation damage in the north-facing back door of an inhabited single-storey house. A woman (in her forties), who introduced herself as the owner of the house, said that on the evening of 28 August she had been at home with her husband (in his forties) and their three children when they heard an explosion.

The Mission assessed the damage to the tree and the houses as recent but could not assess the type of weapon used or the direction of fire.

#### Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-UAV in non-government-controlled Nova Marivka, Donetsk region

While positioned about 1.5km south of Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 86 bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km north of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV. During the same flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The Mission landed the UAV and 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 four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). The SMM again saw the seven

<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.

previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area, as well as the previously reported underground structure inside the area.

On the evening and night of 4 to 5 October, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded two undetermined explosions and three projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 4-6km east-north-east and east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 5 October, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission heard 88 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 300-350m west-north-west, assessed as a live-fire exercise, and three shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range and 1-2km west-south-west, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, but within 5km of its periphery. (For previous observations of live-fire exercises near the disengagement area, please see <u>SMM Daily Report 5 October 2021</u>.)

#### Withdrawal of we apons

The SMM 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 zone

The Mission observed one armoured personnel carrier and one infantry fighting vehicle in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

In Donetsk region, about 2km south-east of the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission observed a fresh impact crater (about 1m in diameter, not seen on 18 September) in the tarmac on the southern edge of road H-15 and a bent crash barrier next to it.

Mine hazard sign in Zolote-3/Stakhanovets; de-mining activities in governmentcontrolled Heivka, Luhansk region, and near government-controlled Novoluhanske, Donetsk region

On the south-western outskirts of Zolote-3/Stakhanovets (government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), at the end of a dirt path about 100m west of a residential area, the SMM observed a mine warning sign (red square with "Mines" written on it in Cyrillic, not previously reported) attached to a wooden gate.

About 2.5km north of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed members of an international organization conducting de-mining activities in a field.

Near a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in a residential area of Heivka (governmentcontrolled, 27km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM observed seven soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces removing 14 anti-tank mines mounted on two wooden boards from both edges of road C-131601. (For previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 5 October</u> 2021.)

SMM facilitation - the operation and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard eight explosions (five outgoing and three impacts), all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. The Mission also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to the roofs of buildings at the DFS.

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

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

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

At the EECP near Zolote, the Mission observed that two modular containers had been installed on the western side of road T-1316. (For previous observations in the area see <u>SMM Daily</u> Report of 4 October 2021.)

Border areas outside government control

At a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 60 minutes, the Mission observed six cars (including two with "DPR" plates), 13 covered cargo trucks (including four with "DPR" plates) and 16 people (12 women and four men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM observed 32 cars (including 22 with "DPR" plates), a minibus (with "DPR" plates, carrying two women in their thirties) and 30 people (eight women and 22 men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.<sup>6</sup>

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 90 minutes, the Mission did not observe any people entering or exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed one covered cargo truck and three people (two women and one man, mixed ages) queuing to enter Ukraine and 46 cars (including 27 with "LPR" plates) and ten people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to exit Ukraine. After about two minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

At a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM observed a woman (in her forties) entering Ukraine, as well as a woman and a man (mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

#### Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

From 3 to 5 October, the SMM monitored areas in east and south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), along the Sea of Azov near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson), as well as near Novotroitske (135km east of Kherson) and Novooleksiivka (162km east of Kherson). While monitoring these areas, the Mission observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

#### \*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, 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 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 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 checkpoint on the southern edge of Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage north towards the settlement, citing "the SMM's safety". While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint on the western edge of Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, nongovernment-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west, referring to the unsecure situation in the area. While at the checkpoint, the SMM saw civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint in Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage south-west towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), citing "the SMM's safety". While at the checkpoint, the SMM saw civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint on the south-eastern edge of Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage north towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city, citing "ongoing training activities in the area".
- 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, referring to a lack of prior coordination.

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:<sup>7</sup>

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas south of Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk). During the same flight, the mini-UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- While conducting a test flight, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Andriivka (government-controlled, 79km north-west of Donetsk) and Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk) and between Ivanopillia (government-controlled, 51km north of Donetsk) and Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), and dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Kostiantynivka and Ivanopillia and between Zaitseve and Andriivka.
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during 14 flights: on nine occasions near the eastern edge of non-government-controlled Luhansk city, on three occasion near Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) and once each over areas near Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 77km west of Luhansk) and Vrubivka (government-controlled, 72km west of Luhansk).

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation
		Government-co	ntrolled are as	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novohnativka (40km south of Donetsk)	
5/10/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area in Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

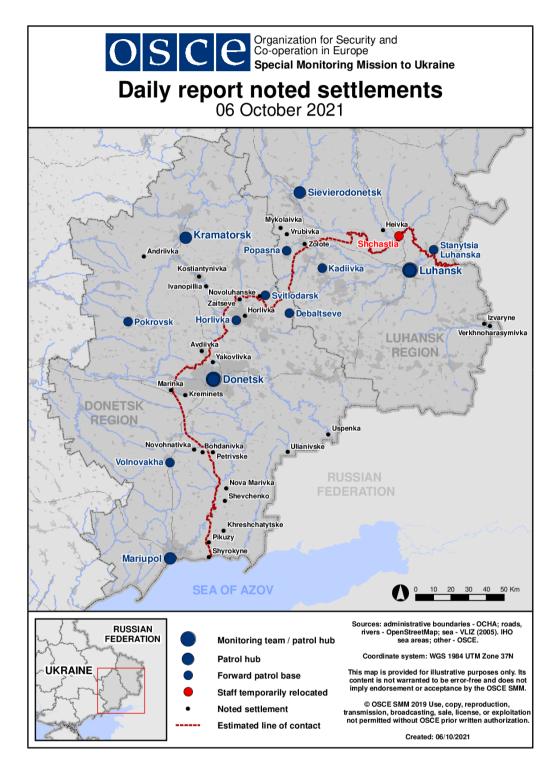
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

	Table of cease	ire violations	s as of 5 October 202	19
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SMM position	<b>Event</b> location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	-	N/K	4-Oct, 18:44
(government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	4-Oct, 19:02
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	4-Oct, 18:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Oct, 18:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	4-Oct, 18:47
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	4-Oct, 18:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	4-Oct, 18:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	17	Projectile	W to E	N/K	4-Oct, 18:51
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	4-Oct, 19:02
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	5-Oct, 00:29
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	5-Oct, 00:32
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	5-Oct, 00:32
(government-controlled, 100km Sof	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	5-Oct, 02:50
Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	5-Oct, 03:07
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	4-Oct, 20:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	4-Oct, 20:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	4-Oct, 20:10
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	4-Oct, 20:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	4-Oct, 23:16
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Oct, 23:16
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	4-Oct, 23:24
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Oct, 18:52
About 1.5km SSW of Nova Marivka (non-	1.5km N	Heard	83	Shot		Small arms	5-Oct, 10:37
government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk)	1.5km N	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	5-Oct, 10:37
SE part of Avdiivka (government-	1-2km SE	Heard	5	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	5-Oct, 12:18
controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SSE	Heard	3	Explosion	Impact	N/K	5-Oct, 12:39
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Oct, 11:01
	300m WNW	Heard	10	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	5-Oct, 10:35
	1-2km WSW	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	5-Oct, 12:45
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government- controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	350m WNW	Heard	25	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	5-Oct, 13:40- 13:45
	350m WNW	Heard	15	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	5-Oct, 13:57
	350m WNW	Heard	38	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	5-Oct, 14:04- 14:14

<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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	4-6km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	4-Oct, 19:18
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (subsequent to previous event and assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Oct, 19:18
SMM camera in Zolote (government- controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Oct, 19:19
	4-6km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Oct, 19:20
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Oct, 03:41
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-7km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Oct, 00:57- 01:08



#### 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 daylighthours and also patrols in this settlement during daylighthours).