

Daily Report 251/2021

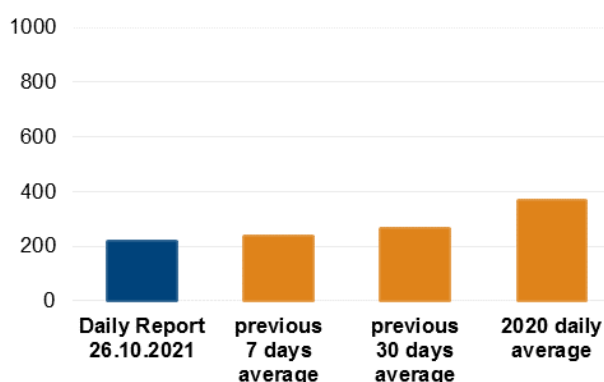
26 October 2021¹

Summary

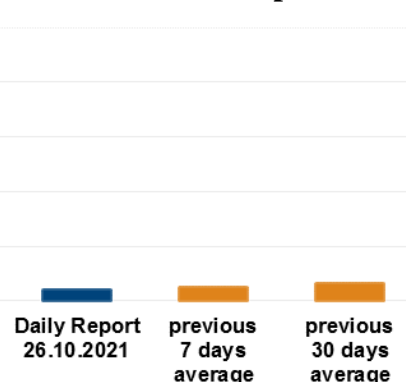
- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 205 ceasefire violations, including 31 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 241 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire near Mineralne, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation, repair and construction of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations south of the bridge near Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region, and near Bezimenne and Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of jamming and probable jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 October 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

³ Including explosions.

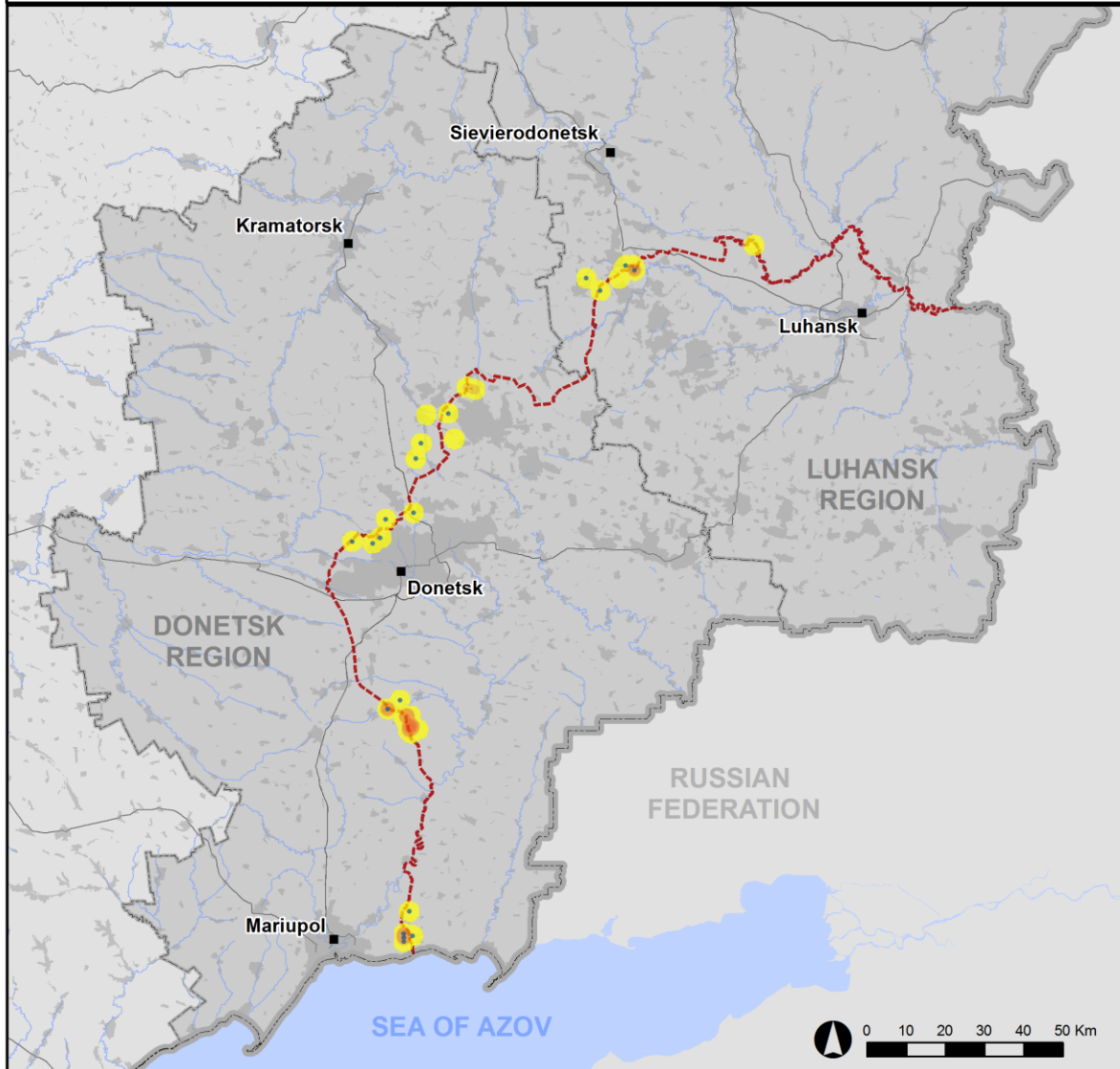
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

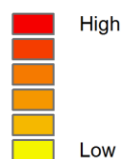


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 25 October 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: 25/10/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 205 ceasefire violations, including 31 explosions (three airbursts and 28 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), inside and near the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below) and in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 241 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which also occurred inside and near the disengagement area near Petrivske and north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations, all near the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region, most of which also occurred in areas near the disengagement area near Zolote.

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 67,598 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 18,580 explosions, 14,348 projectiles in flight, 314 muzzle flashes, 271 illumination flares and at least 34,085 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-UAV near Mineralne, Donetsk region

While positioned 1.3km north-west of Mineralne (non-government-controlled, 10 km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard two shots and one burst of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1.5km north-west, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations, at an assessed distance of 1.7km north-west. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three 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).

During the night of 24-25 October, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded two projectiles in flight and one illumination flare at an assessed range of 4-6km east assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the area’s southern edge and inside the disengagement area. It saw that the [previously reported](#) road barriers across road T-1316, on the area’s southern edge, were closed.

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

While positioned inside the area, about 450m north of the area's southern edge, the SMM observed three [previously reported](#) boxes placed across road T-1316, assessed as ammunition boxes. Near the permanently installed vehicle control gate, about 350m north of the southern edge of the area, two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) again denied the Mission passage southwards, citing "not having received orders from superiors". It also again saw another metal box assessed as an ammunition box on the western edge of the road, about 70m south-south-east of the railway bridge and 1km south of the area's northern edge. The SMM left the area in a northerly direction*.

While positioned on the southern edge of the disengagement area, a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with "JCCC" written on it) told the SMM that the Mission was not allowed to enter the disengagement area, citing "orders from headquarters".*

An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area.*

While positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, the SMM observed a calm situation.

On the evenings of 24 and 25 October, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 56 projectiles, at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as inside the disengagement area, and one shot at an assessed range of 3-5km south-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM spotted three multiple launch rocket systems in a compound near a residential area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed two anti-tank guns and nine probable self-propelled howitzers in two compounds in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including near a residential area. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission observed one self-propelled anti-aircraft system and one armoured combat vehicle in and near residential areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of mine hazard signs near government-controlled Popasna, Luhansk region

About 2km east of the eastern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the Mission observed about 200 pieces of red and white tape, assessed as makeshift mine hazard signs, hanging from tree branches along the northern and southern edges of road T-1514 for about 1.5km (not previously reported). Along the same stretch of road, the SMM also observed about 30 mine hazard signs (not previously reported) (red square with “Danger! Mines!” written on it in Ukrainian).

SMM facilitation of operation, repair and construction of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation and repair works of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM heard six ceasefire violations, including three undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable the construction of a road near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open and that the corresponding checkpoint near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

It also saw that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open and saw civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

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 queuing to travel to non-government-controlled areas at the latter checkpoint.

The SMM 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.

Border areas outside government control

The SMM also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation close to Kundriuche (formerly Kalinivskyi, 64km south of Luhansk), and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, 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 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 of 20 October 2021](#)). 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 the checkpoint south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the Mission passage towards the bridge, citing “lack of prior notification”.
- While positioned on the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote, a member of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) told the SMM that the Mission was not allowed to enter the disengagement area, citing “orders from headquarters”.
- At a checkpoint near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage west. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through the checkpoint.

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.

Conditional access:

- At a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage westward after sixty minutes only with an escort of two vehicles carrying members of the armed formations.

Delay:

- Near Varvarivka (government-controlled, 81km north-west of Donetsk), an officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces allowed the take-off of an SMM long-range UAV for a test flight only after about 80 minutes of waiting.

Other impediments:⁶

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire during a flight over areas near Mineralne (non-government-controlled, 10km north-east of Donetsk). (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming during 13 flights: on four occasions while flying over areas near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) and on four occasions near Novoselivka Druha (government-controlled, 23km north of Donetsk), twice near Lozove (non-government-controlled, 13km west of Donetsk), once while flying over areas near Zhabunki (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk), once while flying over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see above) and once near Novohryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 33km west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk).
- While conducting a test flight, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Novoandriivka (government-controlled, 75km north-west of Donetsk) and Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk) and over areas near Andriivka (government-controlled, 79km north-west of Donetsk). The same UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Kostiantynivka and Andriivka.

⁶ 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 UAV's position.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/10/2021	3	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a compound near a residential area in Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/10/2021	2	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	In a compound near a residential area in Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	9	Probable self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	In a compound near Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/10/2021	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	Near a residential area in Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
25/10/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	In a residential area in Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

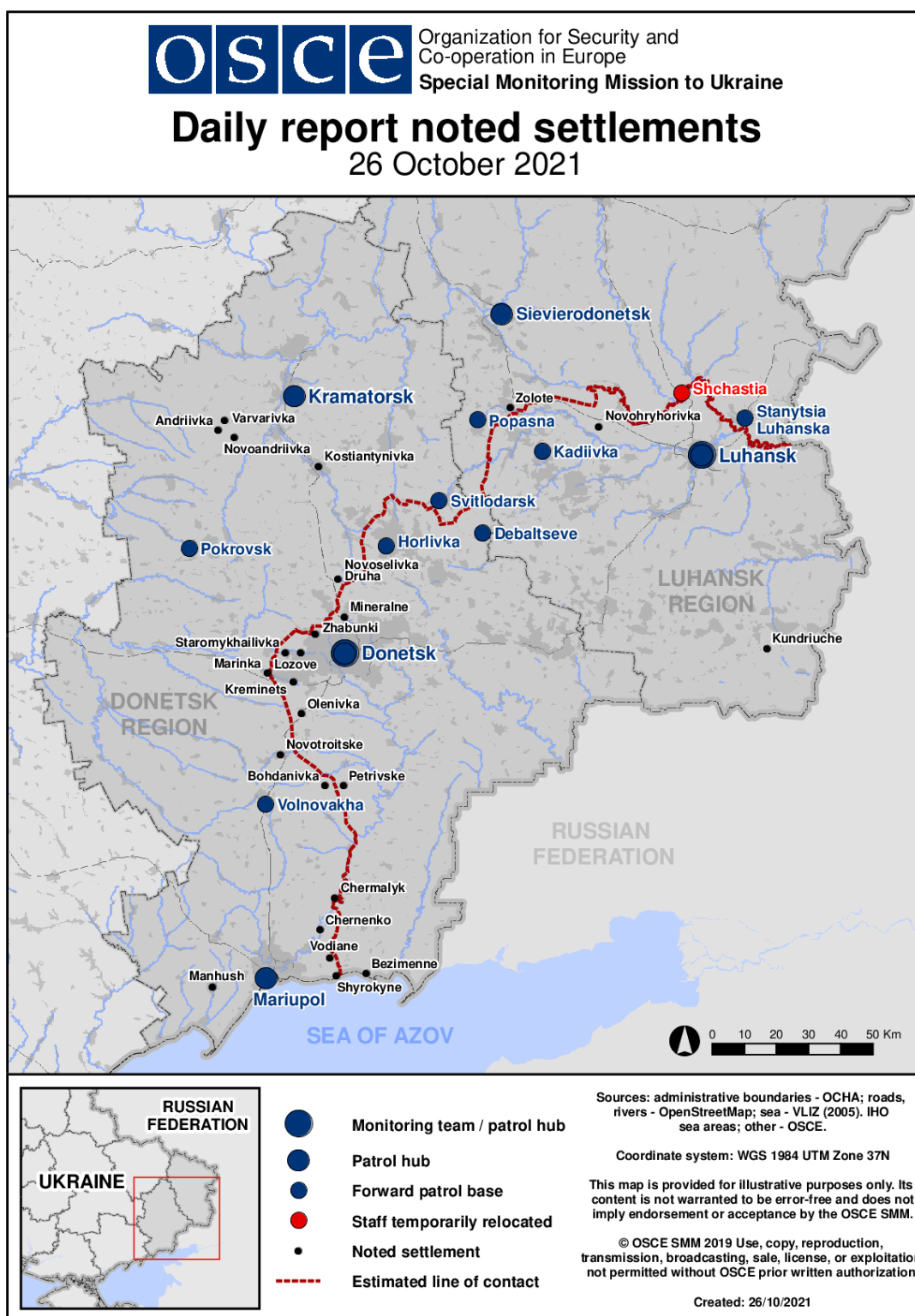
Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 October 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:06
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:10
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:18
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:23
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:24
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 20:32
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 22:28
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 22:39
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	20	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	24-Oct, 22:57
	3-4km ESE	Recorded	8	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	25-Oct, 17:59
	3-4km ESE	Recorded	6	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	25-Oct, 18:00
	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	25-Oct, 18:02
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-3km SSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	WNW to ESE (also recorded by SMM camera near Avdiivka)	N/K	25-Oct, 06:04
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 20:27
	1-2km W	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	24-Oct, 21:50
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	25-Oct, 00:45
	1-2km W	Recorded	2	Explosion	NNE to SSW (airburst, subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-Oct, 00:45
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-Oct, 00:46
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	NE to SW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-Oct, 00:46
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-Oct, 00:46
	300m--500m W	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	25-Oct, 05:01
	1-2km W	Recorded	16	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	25-Oct, 05:23
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	25-Oct, 05:30
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Oct, 19:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	24-Oct, 19:00
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-Oct, 19:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	14	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Oct, 19:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:02
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Oct, 19:02
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-Oct, 19:03

⁸ 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
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Oct, 19:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Oct, 19:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	24-Oct, 19:12
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:22
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:32
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-Oct, 19:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Oct, 19:34
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	25-Oct, 00:42
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	25-Oct, 03:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Oct, 03:25
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km SSE	Recorded	3	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-Oct, 00:50
Mineralne (non-government-controlled, 10km NE of Donetsk)	1.5km NW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	25-Oct, 09:48
	1.5km NW	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	25-Oct, 09:48
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Oct, 10:19
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Oct, 13:45
	2-4km NE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	25-Oct, 13:45
Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	4-5km ENE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Oct, 11:00-11:10
	4-5km ENE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	25-Oct, 11:00-11:10
	5-6km NNE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Oct, 11:00-11:10
Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	58	Shot		Small arms	25-Oct, 12:46-13:00
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Oct, 22:44
	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Oct, 04:33

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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).