Between 29 June and 12 July, the SMM recorded about 5,200 ceasefire violations, including about 1,700 explosions, compared with approximately 8,700 and 4,700, respectively, in the previous two weeks.

The Mission continued monitoring the security situation in and around the three disengagement areas. While it observed a calm situation inside the disengagement area near Stanitsia Luhanska, it spotted the presence of people inside the disengagement areas near Zolote and Petrivske, as well as recent extensions of positions of the armed formations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske. The SMM also recorded ceasefire violations inside the latter area.

On 30 June, two SMM daylight cameras at the Oktiabr mine, close to Vesele, were damaged, resulting in the loss of video feed (see Spot Report 35/2020). SMM ground patrols assessed that it was caused by the detonation of an undetermined projectile in the immediate proximity of the camera site.

The Mission corroborated reports of one fatality—a woman in her eighties who died of shrapnel wounds in Zaitseve. This brings the total number of civilian casualties since the beginning of 2020 to 55—eight fatalities and 47 injuries.

The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to, as well as construction and maintenance of, critical civilian infrastructure. This included repairs to power lines, which provide access to electricity to about 300,000 civilians on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The Mission continued to monitor the situation of civilians at entry-exit checkpoints along the contact line as a result of measures taken amid the COVID-19 outbreak. These attempts contributed to hardship faced by civilians, many of whom were elderly, attempting to cross the contact line.

Between 29 June and 12 July, members of the armed formations continued to deny the SMM passage at checkpoints along official crossing routes in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (see Spot Report 36/2020 and Spot Report 37/2020). Overall, the Mission’s freedom of movement was restricted 27 times (26 times in non-government-controlled areas and once in a government-controlled area). SMM unmanned aerial vehicles were subjected to signal interference on both sides of the contact line on 30 occasions, and were targeted by small-arms fire twice—one near Petrivske and once near Stanitsia Luhanska.

The SMM’s daily reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.