Between 1 and 14 October, the SMM confirmed that two civilians were killed in shelling (a mother and daughter in Zolote), and two were injured (a boy hit by shrapnel in a field close to Zolote and a man caught in a mine blast near Lutuhyne), all in Luhansk region. The Mission also confirmed that a man had been injured by a mine in Maiorove, in Donetsk region, before the reporting period. Since the beginning of the year, the SMM has corroborated 204 civilian casualties (39 deaths and 165 injuries), including 29 children.

The SMM recorded almost 19,000 ceasefire violations, compared with less than 9,000 in the previous two weeks. The intensity of violence was particularly pronounced in the last few days of the reporting period, with the daily ceasefire violation rate averaging over 2,300.

The SMM continued to observe weapons in violation of the agreed withdrawal lines (55 over the two-week period [35 in areas not controlled by the Government]).

Despite commitments by the sides to remove existing mines and not to lay new ones, the SMM confirmed that a man had been injured by a mine in Maiorove, in Donetsk region, before the reporting period. Since the beginning of the year, the SMM has corroborated 204 civilian casualties (39 deaths and 165 injuries), including 29 children.

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Despite commitments by the sides to remove existing mines and not to lay new ones, the SMM observed recently-laid anti-tank mines in the Zolote area, including one in front of a house.

The Mission noted the presence of personnel, hardware and trenches in disengagement areas.

On three occasions (9, 10 and 11-12 October), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted vehicles, including an anti-aircraft gun and an armoured personnel carrier, entering and exiting Ukraine in the middle of the night via an unpaved road near Manych, in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region near the border with the Russian Federation where there are no border crossing facilities.

OSCE SMM Chief Monitor Ertugrul Apakan, in response to the increased level of violence and civilian casualties, called for restraint, urging the sides to protect the population and to deliver on commitments to end the violence, specifically to withdraw weapons, disengage, demine and cease fire.

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