The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable civilian casualties since the beginning of 2021 to 78 (15 fatalities and 63 injured). The SMM corroborated reports of six civilian casualties in engagement areas near Zolote and Petrivske as well as close to the disengagement area near Zolote on 13 October.

From the morning of 15 to 18 October (and continuing outside the reporting period), in front of the hotel where Mission members reside in the central part of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, the SMM observed a round-the-clock gathering of between ten and 350 people. As a result of this protest, the SMM was unable to deploy its regular patrols from that location to conduct its mandated tasks.

Members of the armed formations prevented the SMM from leaving its Forward Patrol Base in non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region, from 17 to 18 October (outside of the reporting period). Since 18 October, the SMM resumed patrolling (see Spot Reports 20/2021 and 21/2021).

The patrolling from other SMM locations continued as normal. Overall during the two-week period, the Mission’s freedom of movement was restricted 33 times, including 29 instances in non-government-controlled areas. In particular, on 17 October, at a checkpoint near Kremenets, members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas (see Spot Report 21/2021). SMM unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were assessed as targeted by small-arms fire twice: once in government-controlled and once in non-government-controlled areas. Mission UAVs experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming on 144 occasions, including 39 instances experienced by long-range UAVs, while flying on both sides of the contact line.

The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It again recorded ceasefire violations inside and close to the disengagement areas near Zolote and Petrivske as well as close to the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska.

The SMM corroborated reports of six civilian casualties – four due to the detonation of explosive objects and two due to shelling. This brings the total number of confirmed civilian casualties since the beginning of 2021 to 78 (15 fatalities and 63 injured).

The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line, including repairs to power lines near Luhanske and to a power substation in Pikuzy, as well as repairs to water infrastructure in Zolote-5/Mykhalivka and Katerynivka.

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