Trends and observations
JUL-SEP 2021

21,062 ceasefire violations including 303 explosions attributable to artillery, mortars and tanks

254 freedom of movement restrictions*

31 civilian casualties

403 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Ceasefire violations (CFVs)

Number of ceasefire violations distributed by:
number per month

Oct '20 506
Nov '20 818
Dec '20 2,389
Jan '21 2,845
Feb '21 3,067
Mar '21 2,824
Apr '21 9,485
May '21 9,272
Jun '21 8,000
Jul '21 7,286
Aug '21 5,942
Sep '21 7,854

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

by month

Jul 88
Aug 203
Sep 112

by age and gender

28 injured

by cause

10

Civilian casualties

in Jul-Sep 2021:
3 fatalities
28 injured

Freedom of movement (FoM) restrictions*

by control

GCA, 22%
NGCA, 16%
Patrol, 6%
Mini UAV, 37%
Artillery Imagery, 5%

by type

Deviation of access, 64%
Delay, 12%
Coordination, 2%
Other expeditions, 23%

Main trends:

In the third quarter of 2021, the number of ceasefire violations recorded along the contact line decreased by 21 per cent, compared with the previous quarter. However, the Mission observed an increase by 43 per cent in the number of explosions attributable to weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minki agreements.

Although the level of violence remained significantly lower than the level before the measures to strengthen the ceasefire that took effect on 27 July 2020, the security situation remained volatile.

Most of the armed violence was recorded in four hotspots along the contact line which accounted for about 70 per cent of all new ceasefire violations:

1) Protopas-Zolote-Pervomaysk area,
2) Artemivska and north-east of Mariupol,
3) Stanytsia Luhanska area,
4) The western and northern outskirts of Horlivka.

Some ceasefire violations recorded outside the security zone were assessed as live-fire exercises. The SMM recorded about 2,500 such ceasefire violations (over 12 per cent of all ceasefire violations observed). This is a two-fold increase in comparison to the previous quarter. Eighty-seven per cent were recorded in non-government-controlled areas.

In the third quarter of 2021, the SMM corroborated 31 civilian casualties. The majority of the casualties (21) were due to shelling. So far in 2021, the Mission has confirmed 76 civilian casualties (15 killed and 61 injured).

The Mission observed more than 400 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines – 43 per cent less than in the previous quarter. Seventy-seven per cent were observed in non-government-controlled areas, and 23 per cent in government-controlled areas.

The SMM faced freedom of movement restrictions not related to mines or unexploded ordnance on more than 250 occasions, an approximate 30 per cent increase compared with the previous quarter. Ninety-six per cent took place in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially in southern Donetsk region, western outskirts of Donetsk city, as well as in areas near the unoccupied border with the Russian Federation. Moreover, the Mission recorded 659 instances of signal interference that heavily affected UAVs monitoring capabilities.

* Excluding regular restrictions faced by the SMM related to mines and URO.

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