Trends and observations

- 134,767 ceasefire violations
- 848 freedom of movement restrictions
- 3,216 explosions attributable to fire from MLRS, artillery, mortars and tanks
- 1,817 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Ceasefire violations (CFVs)

By year:
- 2016: 316,397
- 2017: 401,338
- 2018: 312,044
- 2019: 299,633
- 2020: 134,767

By source of observation:
- Patrol: 47%
- FPB: 26%
- Camera: 15%
- Others: 13%

By day of week:
- Mon: 16%
- Tue: 11%
- Wed: 11%
- Thu: 18%
- Fri: 17%
- Sat: 16%
- Sun: 16%

Explosions attributable to fire from MLRS, artillery, mortars and tanks

Civilian casualties

- 2020:
  - 24 fatalities
  - 105 injured

Main trends:

- In 2020, the number of ceasefire violations recorded along the contact line decreased by 55 per cent, compared to 2019. The number of observed explosions attributable to weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements decreased by five per cent compared to 2019. A sharp decrease in kinetic activity was observed after 27 July 2020, which marked the exhaustion of the additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. The daily average of ceasefire violations fell almost twenty-fold after that date (623 to 33 respectively).

- Most of the armed violence recorded in 2020 was concentrated in four hotspots along the contact line, which accounted for about 76 per cent of all recorded ceasefire violations:
  1. Budivelnik-Zolote-Boroditske area
  2. Avdiivka-Yelets-Yakovlevo-Dnipro airport area
  3. North and north-east of Mariupol
  4. Areas south-west, south and south-east of Shyrokyne

- Ceasefire violations occurred outside the security zone were largely assessed as related to line of contact shelling. In 2020 the SMM recorded over 1,100 such ceasefire violations (almost 1.4 per cent of all ceasefire violations observed by the SMM), about 77 per cent of which were recorded in non-government-controlled areas.

- In July 2020, agreement was reached in the TCG on additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. Since then, the implementation of these measures on 20/21 July, the SMM has recorded the lowest levels of armed violence since the beginning of the conflict. For the first time since the Mission began its systematic data collection, it recorded no ceasefire violations on 16 separate days in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

- The additional measures led to a decrease in the number of civilian casualties due to shelling and small arms fire by 50 per cent. However, mines and UXO continue to represent serious threat to the civilian population.

- In 2020, the SMM observed over 1,800 weapons in violation of the agreed withdrawal lines. About 87 per cent of these weapons were observed in non-government-controlled areas, and about 13 per cent in government-controlled areas. About 25 per cent of all observed weapons were made of the use of technical means (operating unmanned aerial vehicles or installed through other aerial imagery) made available to the SMM, while 25 per cent were seen by patrols on the ground.

- During 2020, the SMM faced freedom of movement restrictions not related to mines or unexploded ordnance on almost 850 occasions. About 95 per cent of these restrictions took place in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Such incidents were concentrated mainly in the south of non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, as well as on checkpoints near crossing routes.