



Daily Report 218/2020

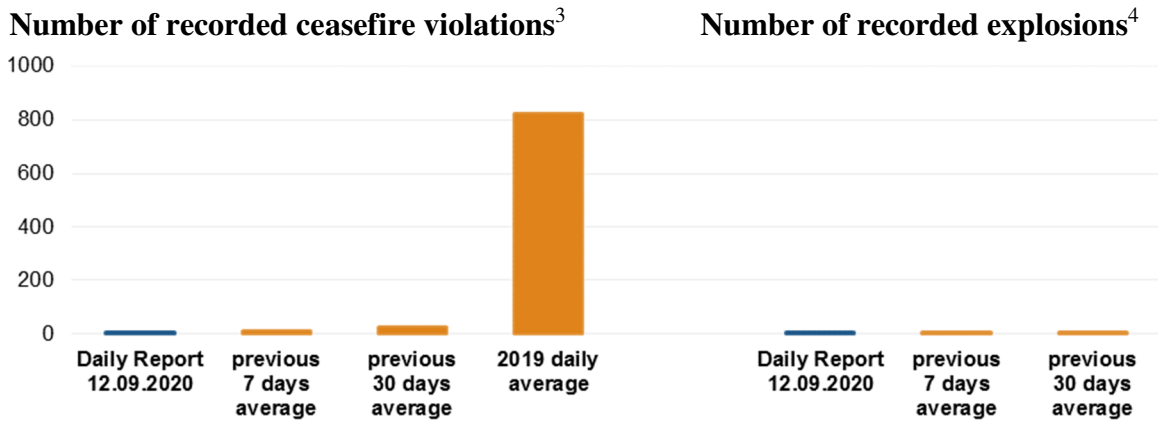
12 September 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded five ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of four people injured on four separate occasions due to explosion of objects, all in non-government-controlled areas Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying in areas south-east of Hranitne, Donetsk region.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM long-range UAV spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- The SMM saw for the first time one trench extension in Donetsk region, assessed belonging to Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as two trench extensions in Luhansk region, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission visited a border crossing point and monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at an entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The SMM monitored public gatherings in Kyiv and Kharkiv related to a recent Trilateral Contact Group decision.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 11 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²



² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

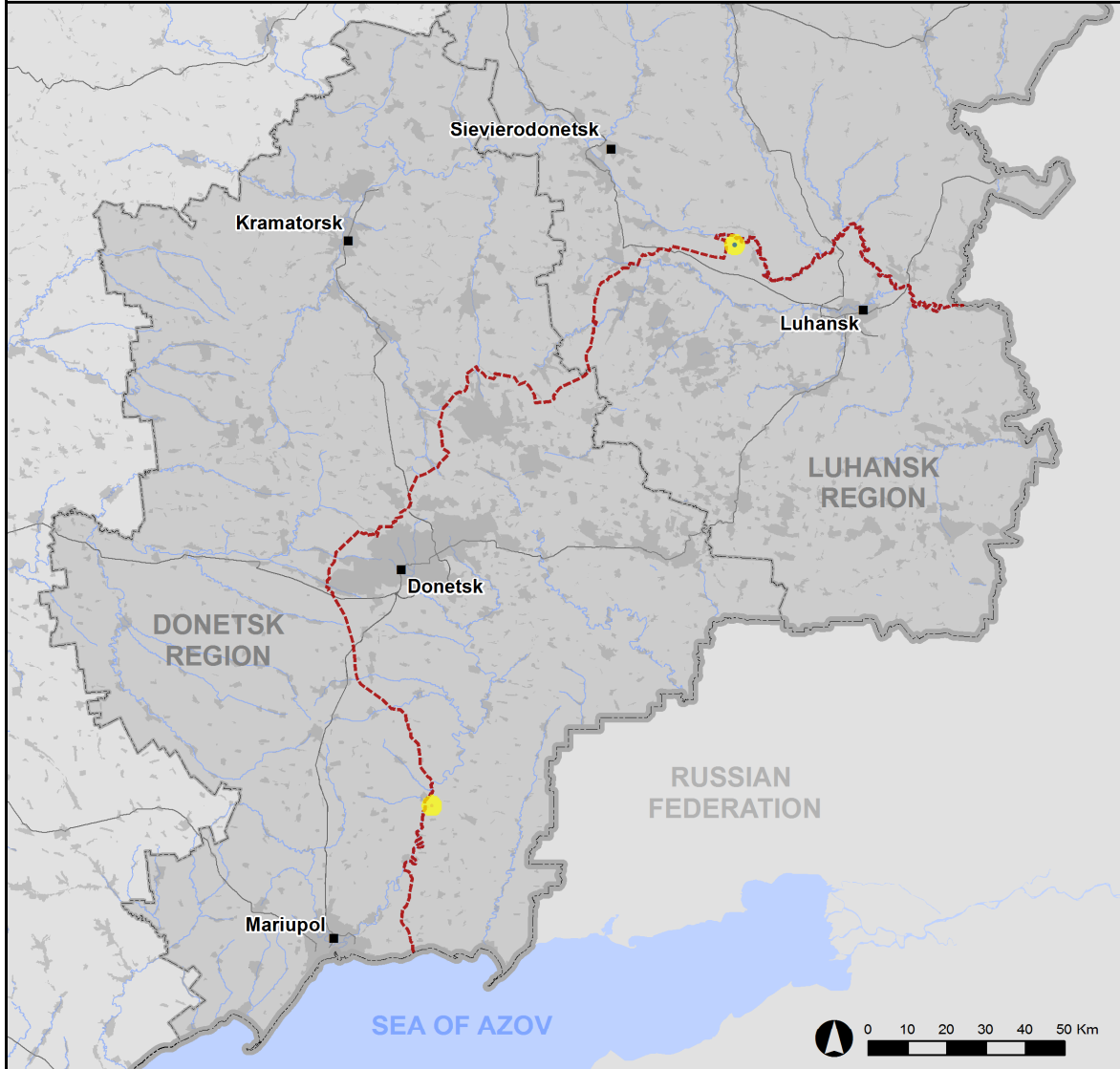
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

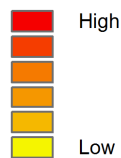


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 11 September 2020



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005), IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 12/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations – all shots of small-arms fire at south-south-westerly directions of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk) (see below). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded five ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area south-west of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 1,014 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 177 explosions, two projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 822 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAVs south-east of Hranitne, Donetsk region

On 11 September, while the SMM was positioned on the southern edge of Hranitne and conducting a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. Thereafter, the Mission heard seven shots of small-arms fire about 2.7km south-east of its position, assessed as targeting its UAV, which at that time was flying over areas close to forward positions of the armed formations. The SMM safely landed its UAV and left the area.*

Four civilians injured due to explosions of objects on four separate occasions, all in non-government-controlled areas Luhansk region.

The SMM followed up on reports of four civilians injured by explosive objects on four separate occasions. All incidents occurred in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

On 9 September, the SMM spoke on the phone to a woman (in her thirties) who said that on 29 July, while she had been at work taking measurements of a gas pipeline on the road between Khriashchuvate (non-government-controlled, 10km south-east of Luhansk) and Ternove (non-government-controlled, 15km south-east of Luhansk), she had stepped on an object just off the road which then exploded. She said she had sustained injuries to her left leg and it had been amputated in the hospital. On the same day, medical staff at a hospital in Luhansk city (non-government-controlled) told the Mission that a woman (in her thirties) had been admitted on 29 July with severe injuries to her left leg leading to its amputation, and multiple shrapnel wounds to her body.

Also on 9 September, on Shcherbakova Street, the Mission spoke to a man (in his twenties) who said that on the evening of 2 August he had been in front of his flat at 1A Shcherbakova Street in Luhansk city when he had asked two children (about ten years old) to give him an object they had been playing with, which he had presumed to be an explosive. He said that shortly after he had taken the object, it had exploded in his hand. The Mission saw scar tissue on the man's neck and face and the he was missing fingers in his left hand. The man showed the SMM a medical certificate from a hospital in Luhansk city according to which he had been admitted on 2 August with injuries to his left hand and shrapnel wounds to his neck, face and left eye, all caused by an explosion.

Also on 9 September, the SMM spoke on the phone to a man (in his forties) who said that on 13 August, in a field near road H-21 between Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) he had sustained injuries when the tractor-excavator he had been driving hit an explosive object (see [SMM Daily Report 14 August 2020](#)). On 14 August, staff at a hospital in Luhansk city told the Mission that a man had been admitted with injuries consistent with an explosion. On 23 August near the place where the incident happened, the Mission spoke with the injured man's colleague (man in his forties) who said he had witnessed the incident on 13 August in which the abovementioned man had been injured by an explosion while driving a tractor-excavator and added that the man had been subsequently transferred to hospital.

On 5 September, the SMM spoke over the phone with a woman (in her twenties) who said that on the morning of 31 August she had found a canister in front of her house at 145 Krupskoi Street in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 63km south-east of Luhansk). She added that when she had lifted the canister, an object, which had been under it, had exploded and injured her. According to the woman's medical certificate, she had been admitted to the hospital in Dovzhansk (former Sverdlovsk, 60km south-east of Luhansk) on 31 August with injuries from an explosion and multiple injuries to her limbs. On 5 September, the Mission spoke to a neighbour of the woman (woman in her thirties) who said that on the morning of 31 August she had been inside her house when she had heard a loud noise and screaming in the street. She said when she had gone outside, she had found her neighbour wounded and had called for an ambulance. On the same day near the victim's address, between the driveways of 143 and 145 Krupskoi Street, the SMM saw a crater (about 35cm in diameter). The SMM could not determine the type of weapon that caused it.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 11 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near the southern edge of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 10 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people within former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 2km and 500m south-west of the area's north-eastern corner, respectively. The same UAV spotted a person within former positions of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 11 September, inside the same disengagement area the SMM saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, two of whom walked up to 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. It subsequently saw three more members of the armed formations, accompanied by four people in protective garments, also walking up to 350m north of its southern edge and then returning.

On the same day, south of the disengagement area's southern edge, the Mission saw 28 workers with heavy construction equipment conducting works on both sides of road T-1316. On the western side of the road, the SMM saw preparation of the ground for pavement, while on the eastern side of the road it saw excavation works and gravelling.

Also on the same day, outside the disengagement area, around 400m east of its eastern edge, the Mission observed 11 workers with a tractor clearing vegetation on both sides of the road leading to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk).

On the night between 10 and 11 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person within a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

During the day on 11 September, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in a residential area (for further details, see the table below).

On 11 September, in a field about 1.4km east-north-east of Shumy (government-controlled, 41km north of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted a 5m-long extension to an existing trench, running from a treeline eastward, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in the imagery from 20 August 2020).

On 10 September, in a field about 4.5km south-west of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two extensions to existing trenches (180m and 200m), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not visible in the imagery from 26 July 2020).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above) and near Vesela Hora, south of the bridge in Shchastia.

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to power lines between Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) and Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), as well as between Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk) and the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

The Mission continued to facilitate maintenance and operation of the DFS.

Border areas outside government control

On 11 September, the Mission observed that the border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) was operational, but did not see any traffic in either direction.

On the same day, the SMM monitored border areas in the south-eastern and southern areas of Donetsk region, including near Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk), Novoivanivka (57km south-east of Donetsk) and Khomutove (87km south of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter COVID-19 outbreak

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational.

While at the EECP near Novotroitske, between 11:05-12:00 and between 14:00-15:00, the Mission saw in total ten cars, four buses and 32 pedestrians (23 women and nine men, mixed ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas, as well as a car, four buses and 64 pedestrians (51 women and 13 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas.

While at a checkpoint near Olenivka, between 8:40 and 12:00 and between 13:30 and 15:00, the SMM saw in total 52 people (mixed genders and ages, including four children) and 15 cars travelling towards government-controlled areas, as well as two buses (both full with passengers, mixed genders and ages) and two people (a woman and a child) entering non-government-controlled areas.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at 09:25 and 13:20, the SMM saw in total 52 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 50 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP. The SMM also observed a coffin being transported from government- to non-government-controlled areas.

SMM monitored peaceful gatherings in Kyiv and Kharkiv

On the evening of 10 September, in Kyiv, in front of the residence of the President of Ukraine south of Kyiv, the Mission saw a peaceful gathering of about 250 people (mixed genders and ages), some of whom were holding Ukrainian, black-and-red and various military battalion flags, expressing messages critical of a recent decision made in the Trilateral Contact Group.

On the same day at the entrance to the Kharkiv Regional Administration, the SMM saw a peaceful gathering of about 300 people (mixed genders and ages), among them representatives of various political groups, who were expressing critical messages of a recent decision made in

the Trilateral Contact Group (for similar observations, see [SMM Daily Report 11 September 2020](#)).

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Package of Measures have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the Government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report 10 September 2020](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, citing the lack of permission from his superiors.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:

- On 11 September, while flying over the area of Novoselivka Druha (government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.
- On 11 September, while flying over the area of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming and subsequently heard seven shots of small-arms fire about 2.7km south-east from the patrol position, assessed as targeting its UAV, which at that time was flying over areas close to forward positions of the armed formations.⁶

⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/09/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	In a residential area of Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	In a residential area of Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a residential area of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	
11/09/2020	-	Extension to an existing trench (5m long), running from a treeline eastward (not visible in imagery from 20 August 2020)	Near Shumy (41km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
10/09/2020	-	Two extensions to existing trenches (180m and 200m) (not visible in the imagery from 26 July 2020)	Near Kalynove-Borshchuvate (61km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 11 September 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km SSW Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	2.7km ESE	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	11-Sep, 12:23-12:24
N edge of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km NW of Luhansk)	5-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Sep, 11:47

⁸ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned. In the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs, and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff has temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well.)