

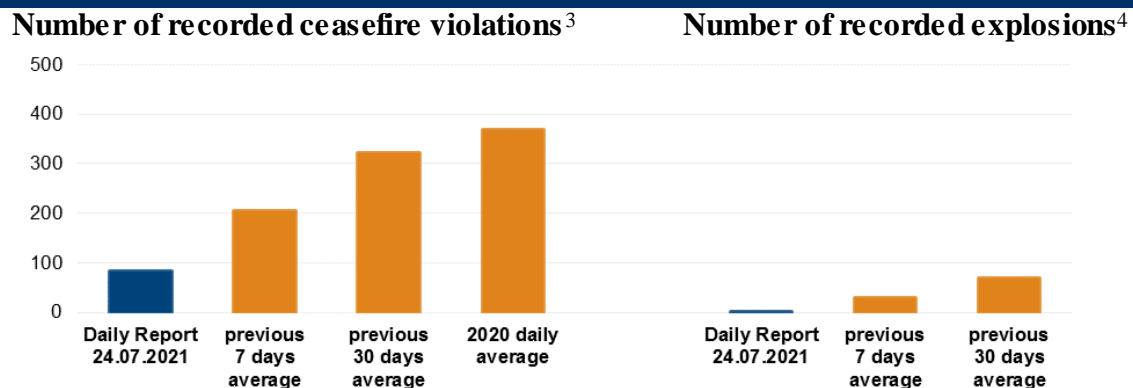
# Daily Report 171/2021

24 July 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 26 ceasefire violations, including one explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 102 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 58 ceasefire violations, including one explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at four checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 23 July 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

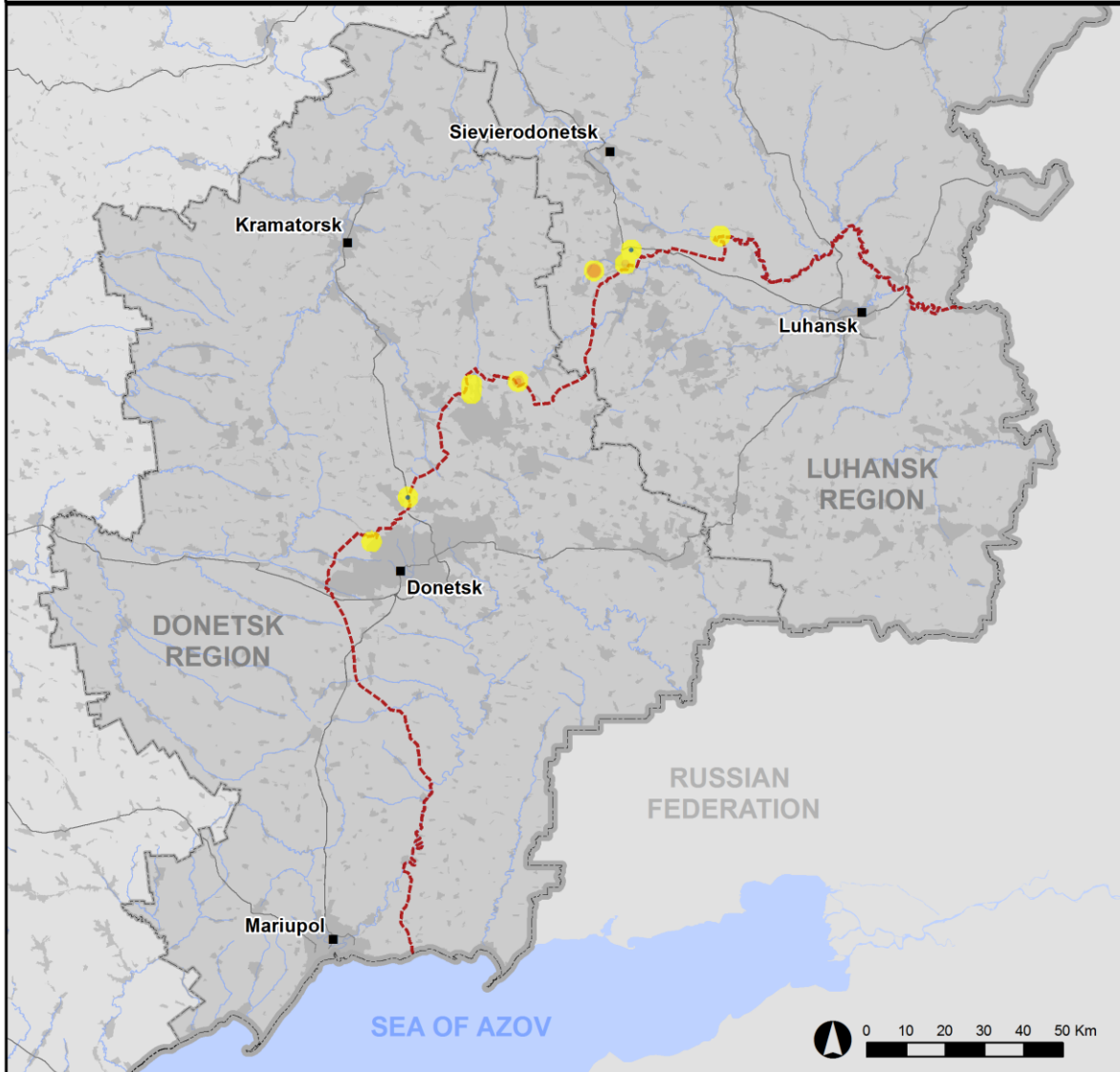
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

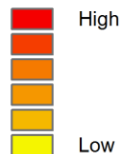


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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 July 2021



#### 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: 24/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 26 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area west-south-west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 102 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 58 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas west and north-north-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 46,219 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,494 explosions, 8,737 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 169 illumination flares and at least 23,557 bursts and shots).

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 22 July, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk). On 23 July, it saw two of them at the same location.

On the evening of 22 July and on the afternoon of 23 July, while positioned at two locations, the Mission heard 55 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 23 July, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area. Also, the SMM observed five workers clearing vegetation on both sides of road T-1316 between the disengagement area’s southern edge and about 350m north of it.

While positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### **Withdrawal of weapons**

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

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw two mortars in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as two mortars and one howitzer in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a compound near a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

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<sup>5</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

### **Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone**

The SMM saw three armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in a residential area, as well as eight armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in compounds near residential areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Presence of anti-tank mines near Starohnativka, Donetsk region and Sentianivka, Luhansk region**

On 22 July, about 4km east of Starohnativka (government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted five anti-tank mines (TM-62) laid across road C-051639 leading eastwards towards Bila Kamianka (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), one of which for the first time, all assessed as not recently laid and assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [1 July 2021](#) and [2 July 2021](#).)

On the same day, on a road about 2.5km north-north-east of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted ten anti-tank mines for the first time and assessed as not recently laid. About 400m further south-south-east, laid across road P-66 close to forward positions of the armed formations, the same UAV spotted 44 anti-tank mines, seven of which for the first time, all assessed as not recently laid. These mines were all assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 6 March 2021](#).)

On 23 July, about 300m north-east of Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed three improvised mine hazard signs (red rectangles with “Stop Mines” written on them in Russian): two on the western edge and one on the eastern edge of road C-051523.

On the same day, at four locations along road T-1316 between the eastern edge of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk) and the intersection with road R-66, the SMM observed eight members of an international organization (men in their twenties to forties), carrying out vegetation clearance on the southern edge of the road and marking certain areas with rope and tape, assessed as preparation works for de-mining.

### **SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable assessment and maintenance of the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk).

### Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. Near the EECP, the SMM observed five workers dismantling a concrete shelter using a crane and filling in the hole beneath it.

The SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

### Border areas outside government control

On 22 July, the Mission monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Krynychne (formerly Biriukove, 75km south-east of Luhansk) and Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk) and observed no change in the security situation.

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

### \*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, 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 Minsk agreements 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 of 21 July 2021](#)). 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.*

#### Denials:

- At a checkpoint near Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage into the settlement, citing “ongoing de-mining activities in the area”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing out of the settlement.
- At a checkpoint near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations, one of them visibly armed, denied the Mission passage westwards through the checkpoint, citing “ongoing mine clearance activities.” While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through westwards.

- At a checkpoint near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage southwards into the settlement.

*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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed westwards towards Staromarivka (62km south of Donetsk) only after about 30 minutes of waiting.

Conditional:

- Later, at the same checkpoint near Nova Marivka, two armed members of the armed formations hindered the patrol from crossing the checkpoint, accusing the Mission of transporting non-Mission personnel and demanding to inspect the vehicles. They only allowed the patrol to proceed after observing that only SMM personnel were in the vehicles.

Other impediments<sup>6</sup>:

- The SMM was unable to launch a mid-range UAV flight due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, near Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), during three flights over areas near Semyhiria, during two flights over areas near Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), during one flight over areas near Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) and during one flight over areas near Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk).

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<sup>6</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

## Tables of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
22/7/2021	2	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
22/7/2021	2	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm, of which one probable)	Near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, 44km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	In a compound near a residential area of Donetsk city	

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>7</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
22/7/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Starohnativka (51km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
23/7/2021	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM variant)	In a residential area of Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
22/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) with an anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Pakhalivka (40km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a compound near a residential area of Donetsk city	
	5	Armoured recovery vehicle (two BREM and three BTS-4A)	In a compound near a residential area of Donetsk city	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		

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

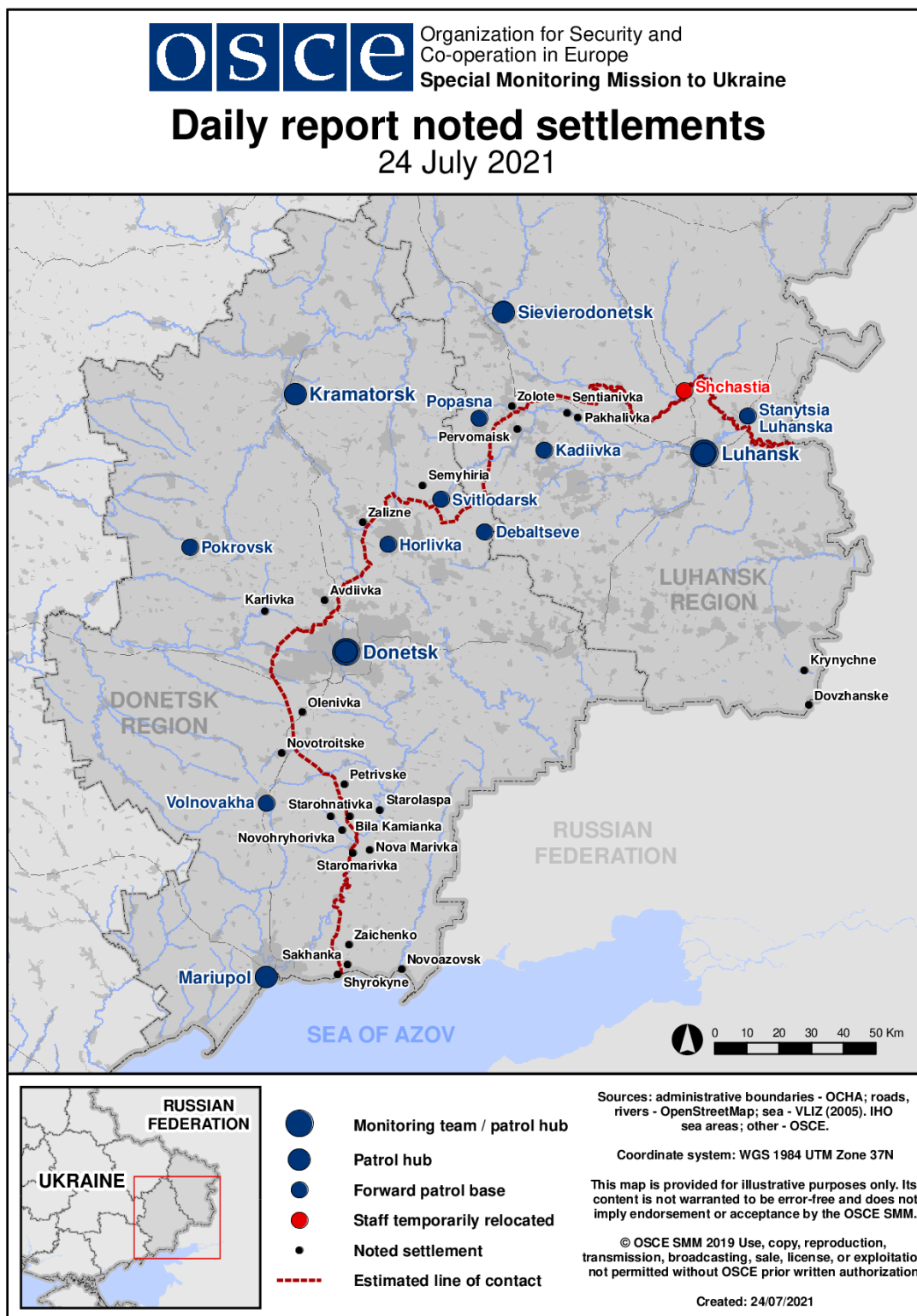
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 23 July 2021<sup>8</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Jul, 22:24
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	6	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	23-Jul, 01:47
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	23-Jul, 00:34
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S	N/K	22-Jul, 21:25
	3-5km WSW	Recorded	15	Projectile	N to S	N/K	22-Jul, 23:40
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jul, 10:30
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km SW	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	23-Jul, 00:58
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ENE	Heard	45	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	22-Jul, 19:50-20:00
N edge of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	600-700m NNE	Heard	10	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	23-Jul, 16:52-16:55
	4-5km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jul, 16:58

<sup>8</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by 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 regions<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> 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 have 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 also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).