

Daily Report 225/2021

25 September 2021¹

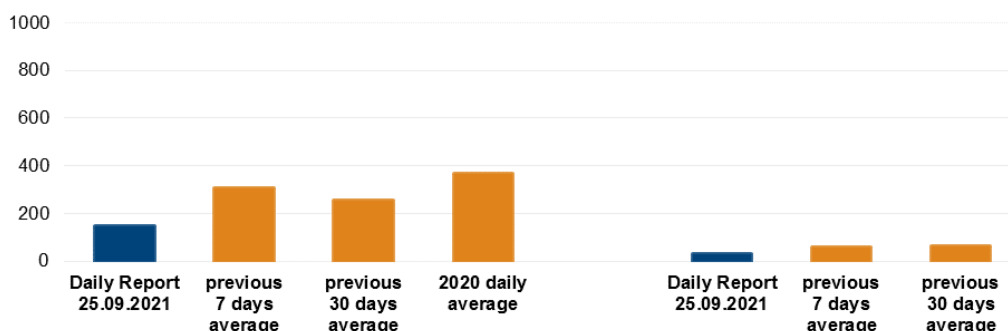
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 113 ceasefire violations, including 24 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 285 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 37 ceasefire violations, including six explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 126 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission corroborated a civilian causality in non-government-controlled Donetsk city.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Almazna, Luhansk region.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- In the past weeks, the SMM spotted extensions to existing trenches on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation, construction and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced instances of jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Weather conditions limited observational capabilities of some of the SMM's cameras.

³ Including explosions.

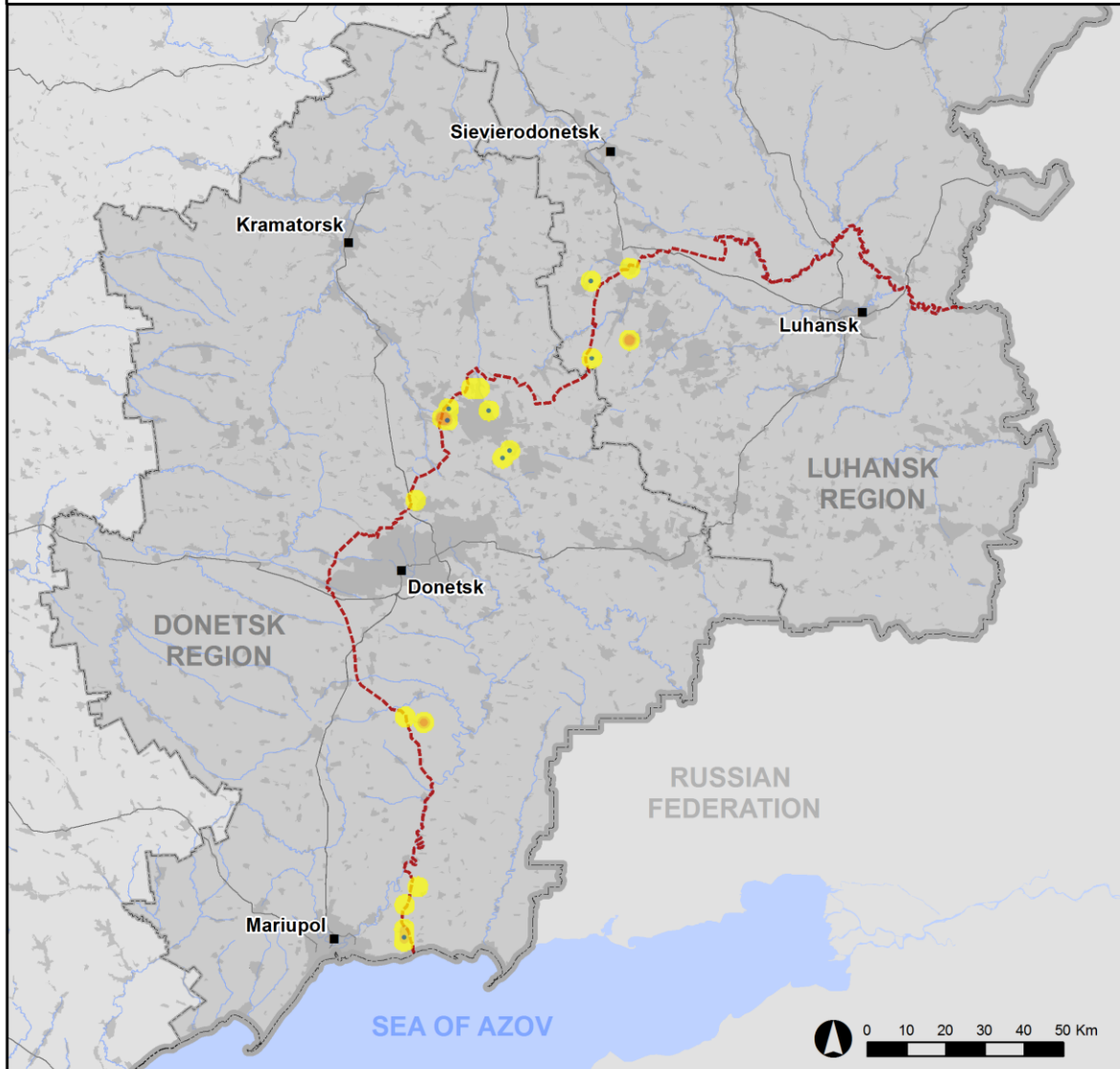
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

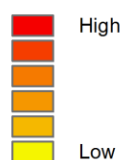


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 September 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: 25/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 113 ceasefire violations, including 24 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at north-westerly directions of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas north and east of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk). The Mission also recorded ceasefire violations in an area south-west of Sofiivka (formerly Karlo-Marksove, non-government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk) and in an area north-east of Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk), all assessed as live-fire training exercises in the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 285 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 37 ceasefire violations, including six undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area west of Almazna (non-government-controlled, 55km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 126 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the Mission has recorded at least 59,817 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,632 explosions, 11,620 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 243 illumination flares and at least 31,052 bursts and shots).

Civilian casualty corroborated in non-government-controlled Donetsk city

The Mission followed up on reports of a man injured on 17 September in Donetsk city's Kuibyshevskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 5km west of Donetsk city centre).

On 21 September, in Donetsk city's Kuibyshevskiyi district, a man (in his fifties) told the SMM that on the morning of 17 September, he had been at his house at 39 Enhelsa Street, when he had heard and seen an explosion and subsequently felt pain in his back.

On 23 September, a man (age unknown), who introduced himself as the son of the injured man, told the Mission over the phone that, on the morning of 17 September, he had been at his parents' house when he had heard and seen an explosion and subsequently saw that his father, who had been in an adjacent room during the explosion, had sustained injuries to his back.

On 23 September, the SMM saw a medical certificate from a hospital in Donetsk city, according to which a man (in his fifties) had been admitted with shrapnel wounds to his torso and had undergone surgery.

(For previous observations on the damage to the abovementioned house, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 September 2021](#).)

Small-arms-fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAV near non-government-controlled Almazna, Luhansk region

While positioned on the south-western edge of Almazna to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard 25 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1.5-2.5km west, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over

positions of the armed formations, about 2km west of the SMM's position. The UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during the same and two previous flights over the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east Luhansk) the Mission saw four 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 September, outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), about 300m east-north-east of its south-eastern corner and south of the road leading to Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed freshly dug soil and sand bags stacked on each other (not previously reported), as well as an earth drilling machine. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 August 2021](#).)

On 24 September, while positioned on the south-western edge of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka, the Mission heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km north, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over the southern-edge of the disengagement area near Zolote.*

On the night of 23-24 September, the SMM camera in Petrivske recorded one illumination flare at an assessed range of 2-3km west-north-west. On 24 September, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard 19 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** but within 5km of its periphery.

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 observed an anti-tank guided missile system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed one surface-to-air missile system and 26 howitzers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region,

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

including in a compound and at a railway station. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM observed five armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. It also observed one armoured combat vehicle in a compound in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

In Donetsk region, SMM mini-UAVs indicated the presence of extensions to existing trenches on both sides of the contact line and recently built mortar pits in government-controlled areas. All these extensions and the mortar pits were assessed as dug between 26 July and 26 August 2021.

On 26 July, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a T-shaped extension (about 540m in length) to an existing trench, in a field about 2.1km north of the northern edge of Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 40km south of Donetsk) (not visible in imagery from 13 July 2021).

On 3 August, about 4km east-south-east of Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted an extension (about 60m in length) to an existing trench, running south across a road leading east towards Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), and a mortar pit under construction (assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces) (not visible in imagery from 7 October 2020).

On 4 August, about 2.5km east-north-east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted two extensions (about 60m and 20m in length) to an existing trench: one running east and the other one running north-north-east (not visible in imagery from 30 April 2021), both about 150m north of the northern edge of the disengagement area near Petrivske. About 140m west of these extensions, the same UAV spotted a mortar pit, assessed as recently built and belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (not visible in imagery from 13 May 2021).

All aforementioned extensions were assessed as forward moves of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and were dug in areas where the distances between the forward positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and those of the armed formations are between 1.1km and 2.1km.

On 24 August, an SMM mini-UAV spotted an extension (about 10m in length) (not visible in imagery from 25 April 2021) to an existing trench, running north of the former runway at the destroyed Donetsk international airport (non-government-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk). The extension was assessed as a consolidation of existing trenches of the armed formations and was dug in an area where the distance between the forward positions of the armed formations and those of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is 500m.

On 26 August, about 1.5km south of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted an extension (about 10m in length) to an existing trench, running along the southern edge of road N-15 (not visible in imagery from 7 October 2020). The extension was assessed as a forward move of the armed formations and was dug in an area where the distance between the forward positions of the armed formations and those of the Ukrainian Armed Forces is 1.6km.

The Mission previously published a summary of its observations on trench extensions on both sides of the contact line on 11 August 2021. (See [SMM Daily Report of 11 August 2021](#).)

Presence of an anti-tank mine near Pikuzy and mine hazard signs near Vuhlehirsk, Donetsk region

On 23 September, on road T-0519 on the western edge of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted one previously reported anti-tank mine, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 2 July 2021](#).)

Near the north-western edge of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw about seven white, round plastic objects on top of wooden stakes, assessed as makeshift mine hazard warning signs (not previously reported), on the western edge of a local road.

SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard four ceasefire violations assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to electricity infrastructure in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), assessment and maintenance of a phenol sludge reservoir near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk), as well as to enable the construction of a sewage system at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open, but did not observe any traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. At the EECP, the SMM observed five men (in their twenties and thirties) installing metal structures for a new pedestrian shelter. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 September 2021](#).) About 140m south of the EECP on the western edge of the road leading southwards to the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, the Mission observed eight men (in their twenties to forties), one of them operating an excavator and the others digging in the ground, assessed as for the construction of a sewage system (see above), as well as connecting pipes for newly installed toilets. The SMM also saw eight round concrete forms placed on the ground assessed as components of two septic tanks.

The Mission 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.

SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv

In Kyiv, outside the Shevchenkiivskyi District Court at 31A Dehtiarivska Street, the Mission observed about 40 people (mostly men in their twenties), reportedly belonging to *National Corps*, showing their support for seven defendants of the *National Corps* subject to court proceedings. It also saw about 50 law enforcement officers, some of whom were securing the entrance to the building and its courtyard. The SMM observed a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, 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, 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 Co-ordination (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 20 September 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.

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 in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage westward into the village only after about 37 minutes of waiting, referring to a lack of prior notification.

Other impediments:⁶

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Almazna (non-government-controlled, 55km west of Luhansk). The same UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during the same and two previous flights over the area. (See above.)

⁶ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight near Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five flights: twice near Orlivske and Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), respectively; and once while flying over the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
24/9/2021	1	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P149 <i>Shturm-S</i> , 130mm)	Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/9/2021	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	8	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint</i> , 152mm)	In a compound in Khibodariivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/9/2021	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
24/9/2021	1	Combat engineer vehicle (IMR-2)	Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/9/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near Bohdanivka (44km west of Luhansk)	Mini-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 25 September 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	23-Sep, 22:24
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (also recorded by the SMM cameras in Chermalyk and Shyrokyne)	N/K	23-Sep, 21:24
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maïorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	23-Sep, 19:22
	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	23-Sep, 20:19
	4-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	24-Sep, 00:36
	4-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	24-Sep, 00:37
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Sep, 00:38
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	23-Sep, 19:20
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Sep, 19:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Sep, 19:25
	6-8km N	Recorded	10	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Sep, 19:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Sep, 20:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 21:29
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	19	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	24-Sep, 13:22-13:24
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km NW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	24-Sep, 13:50
	1-2km NW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	24-Sep, 13:50
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	6-8km WNW	Heard	3	Shots and bursts	Outgoing	Small arms	23-Sep, 22:35
	5-7km WNW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 22:37-22:41
	5-7km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 22:47
	7-8km WNW	Heard	30	Burst	Outgoing	Small arms	23-Sep, 22:48-23:02
	5-7km WNW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 23:12
	6-8km WNW	Heard	5	Burst	Outgoing	Small arms	23-Sep, 23:13
	7-8km NW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 00:20
About 2km S of Sofiivka (formerly Karlo-Marksove non-government-controlled, 40 NE of Donetsk)	1.5-2km NW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 10:30-10:32
About 1km NE Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 11:00-11:14
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	6-8km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 16:23
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 18:43
SW edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-2km N	Heard	6	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	24-Sep, 08:26
SW edge of Almazna (non-government-controlled, 55km W of Luhansk)	10-15km WSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 11:22-11:24
	1.5-2.5km W	Heard	25	Shot		Small arms	24-Sep, 12:03-12:04

⁸ 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 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 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).