

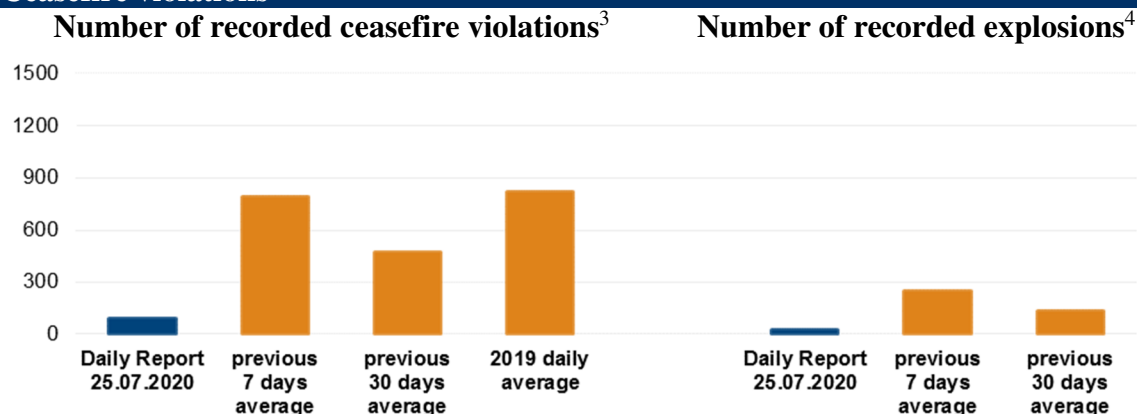
Daily Report 176/2020

25 July 2020¹

Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Orikhove, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It saw people within former positions during night hours inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The SMM saw weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM observed recently dug trenches near government-controlled Orikhove and non-government-controlled Holubivske, Luhansk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



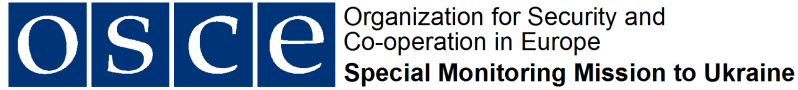
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 July 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

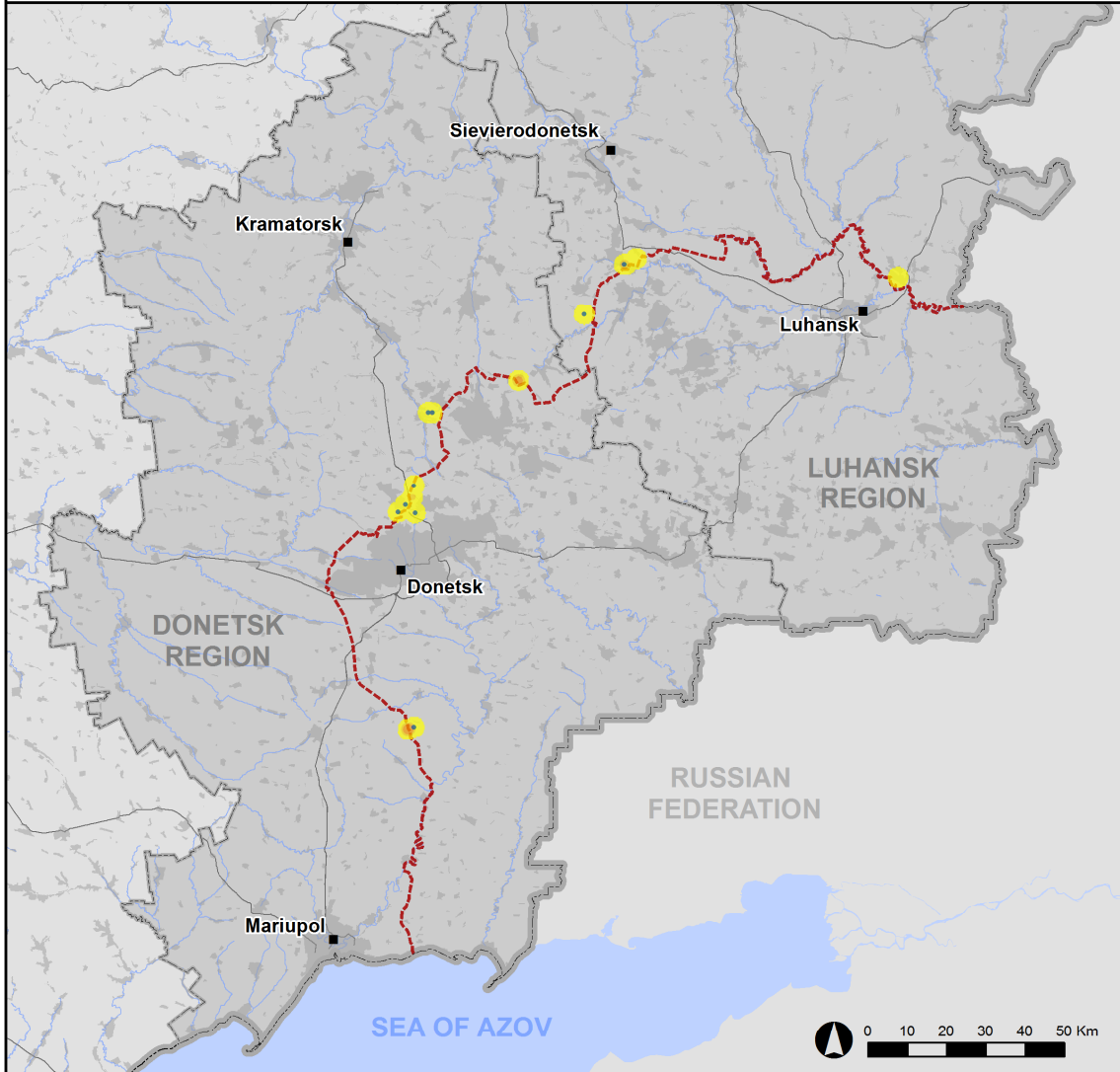
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

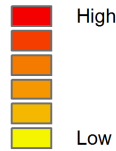
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 July 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 25/07/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, but a similar number of explosions (15), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (11 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded inside and close to the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below) and in areas west-south-west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk).

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded fewer ceasefire violations, but a similar number of explosions (12), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (ten explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including almost all explosions, were recorded at northerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Orikhove, Luhansk region

While positioned on the north-eastern edge of Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk) to conduct a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 3km south-south-west. The Mission safely landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On the night of 23-24 July, the SMM camera at Prince Ihor monument south-east of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) recorded three projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 3-5km north-north-west and assessed as outside of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery.

On 24 July, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the bridge and their checkpoint south of it.

On the night of 23-24 July, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people about 200m west-south-west of its north-eastern corner, as well as three people south of railway tracks and about 900m west of road T-1316, all within former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same night, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded ten undetermined explosions and a projectile in flight, all at an assessed range of 2-4km east and assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the morning of 24 July, outside the disengagement area, the SMM saw a mini-bus with workers arriving at a location about 500m south of the area’s southern edge. In the afternoon, in the same area, the Mission saw 11 workers from non-government-controlled areas clearing vegetation with chainsaws on both sides of the road T-1316.

Throughout the day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with

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

“JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked along road T-1316 inside the area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the night of 23-24 July, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted one person within a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550 meters east-north-east of its south-western corner.

On the same night, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 24 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 2-4km south-east and assessed as inside the disengagement area. It also recorded three explosions (one assessed as an impact and two as undetermined) at an assessed range of 3-5km east-south-east, which it was unable to assess as inside or outside the disengagement area.

On 24 July, while positioned at two locations close to the disengagement area, 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. It saw 11 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including at the airfield in Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk)⁶.

It also observed 37 weapons beyond respective withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including at the above-mentioned airfield (for further details, see the tables below).

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁷

The SMM observed armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in the security zone in government-controlled areas (for further details, see the tables below).

On 23 July, in fields about 3km south-south-east of Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time positions consisting of a trench and a footpath (about 440m long) running north to south in a treeline, a trench (about 30m long) running west to east in the same treeline and another trench (about 130m long) extending south-east from the aforementioned trench (the first two trenches were not visible in imagery from 11 April 2020 and the third one in imagery from 6 June 2020). About 400m east of the aforementioned positions, the UAV also spotted for the first time a recently dug trench (50m long) running north to south and then continuing east to west (not visible in imagery from 6 June). All trenches were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

In fields about 750m east of the abovementioned trench, about 2.8km west of Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk), the same mini-UAV spotted for the first time positions consisting of a recently dug trench (about 50m long) running south-east

⁶ Formerly Luhansk International Airport.

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

to north-west (not visible in imagery from 6 June 2020) and about 380m and 460m further east, two trenches (not visible in imagery from 24 February 2020) recently dug across a road. All trenches were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

The above-mentioned recent trenches have decreased the distance between the positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and of the armed formations in the area to about 350m (from 1km).

Also on 23 July, in a field 2km north-east of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk), a mid-range UAV spotted a recent trench extension (40m long) assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not visible in imagery from 24 February 2020). About 500m south-east of the trench extension and about 100m south-east of a not recent trench belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the UAV spotted wooden logs and other materials.

Additionally, outside the security zone, on 23 July, an SMM long-range UAV spotted for the first time a military-type cargo airplane (AN-24T) on the apron of the above-mentioned airfield in Peremozhne (not visible in the imagery from 22 June 2020).

Presence of anti-tank mines in Zolote-4/Rodina

On 23 July, an SMM mid-range UAV [again](#) spotted seven anti-tank mines laid across a local road about 1.7km east-north-east of Zolote 4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

SMM facilitation of operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), and near Shumy (government-controlled, 41km north of Donetsk); repairs to power and gas lines in government-controlled Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk) and Troitske (69km west of Luhansk); an assessment and maintenance of gas lines near government-controlled Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and Nelipivka (40km north-east of Donetsk), as well as of power lines near Donetskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km west of Luhansk) and near Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and near Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at three locations near the station, the Mission heard three undetermined explosions, as well as bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station (see the table below).

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

In Donetsk region, the SMM 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 operational. Between 08:45 and 09:25, at the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), north of the EECP near Novotroitske, the SMM saw a bus with about 24 passengers (mixed genders and ages) arriving at the checkpoint from the direction of the EECP.

While at the EECP between 10:15 and 11:00, the Mission saw three cars travelling through the EECP from non-government- to government-controlled areas and a car traveling in the opposite direction, as well as ten pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing at each side of the EECP. Between 12:00 and 13:35, it saw 22 cars traveling to government-controlled areas, as well as 14 cars traveling in the opposite direction.

At the checkpoint near Olenivka, between 08:25 and 13:30 and again between 14:30 and 15:10, the Mission saw in total at least 120 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, including children) and about 25 cars queuing to enter government-controlled areas. At 14:45, the Mission saw two buses with passengers queuing at the checkpoint to enter non-government-controlled areas. The SMM also saw members of the armed formations handing out forms to pedestrians traveling towards government-controlled areas. A woman (in her thirties) told the SMM that travellers leaving non-government-controlled areas were asked to sign a form that indicates they will not to return to non-government-controlled areas until the end of the quarantine due to COVID-19.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational. The Mission saw that a golf cart was operating between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Kharkiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, 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 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 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 14 July 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.

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 the evening of 23 July, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Stepanivka (54km north of Donetsk).⁸
- While conducting a mini-UAV flight positioned on the north-eastern edge Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south, assessed as aimed at its UAV (see above).

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of several kilometres of the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/07/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	Near Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/07/2020	5	Towed howitzer (four D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm and one 2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)	On the apron and runway of the airfield in Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk) (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report 25 June 2020)	Long-range UAV
	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)		
	2	Self-propelled howitzer (one 2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm and one 2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	2	Ani-tank gun (one BS-3, 100mm and one MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/07/2020	26	Tank (20 T-64 and six T-72)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	6	Towed mortar (three 2S12, 120mm and three 2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)	On the apron and runway of the airfield in Peremozhne (19km south of Luhansk), where the UAV also spotted a military-type cargo airplane (AN-24T), four armoured personnel carriers, two armoured reconnaissance vehicles and two infantry fighting vehicles ⁹ (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report 25 June 2020)	
	2	Tank (one T-64 and one T-72)		
	1	Mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)		
	2	Surface-to-air missile system (one 9K33 <i>Osa</i> and one 9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		

⁹ The airplane and armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/07/2020	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	Near Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	-	Recent positions consisting of four trenches	Near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Pyshechyk (84km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personal carrier (BTR-80)		
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novotoshkiivske (53km west of Luhansk)	Mid-range UAV
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP type)	Near Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/07/2020	-	Recent positions consisting of three trenches	Near Holubivske (51km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	-	Trench extension	Near Zolote 5/Mykhailivika (61km north-west of Luhansk)	Mid-range UAV

¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

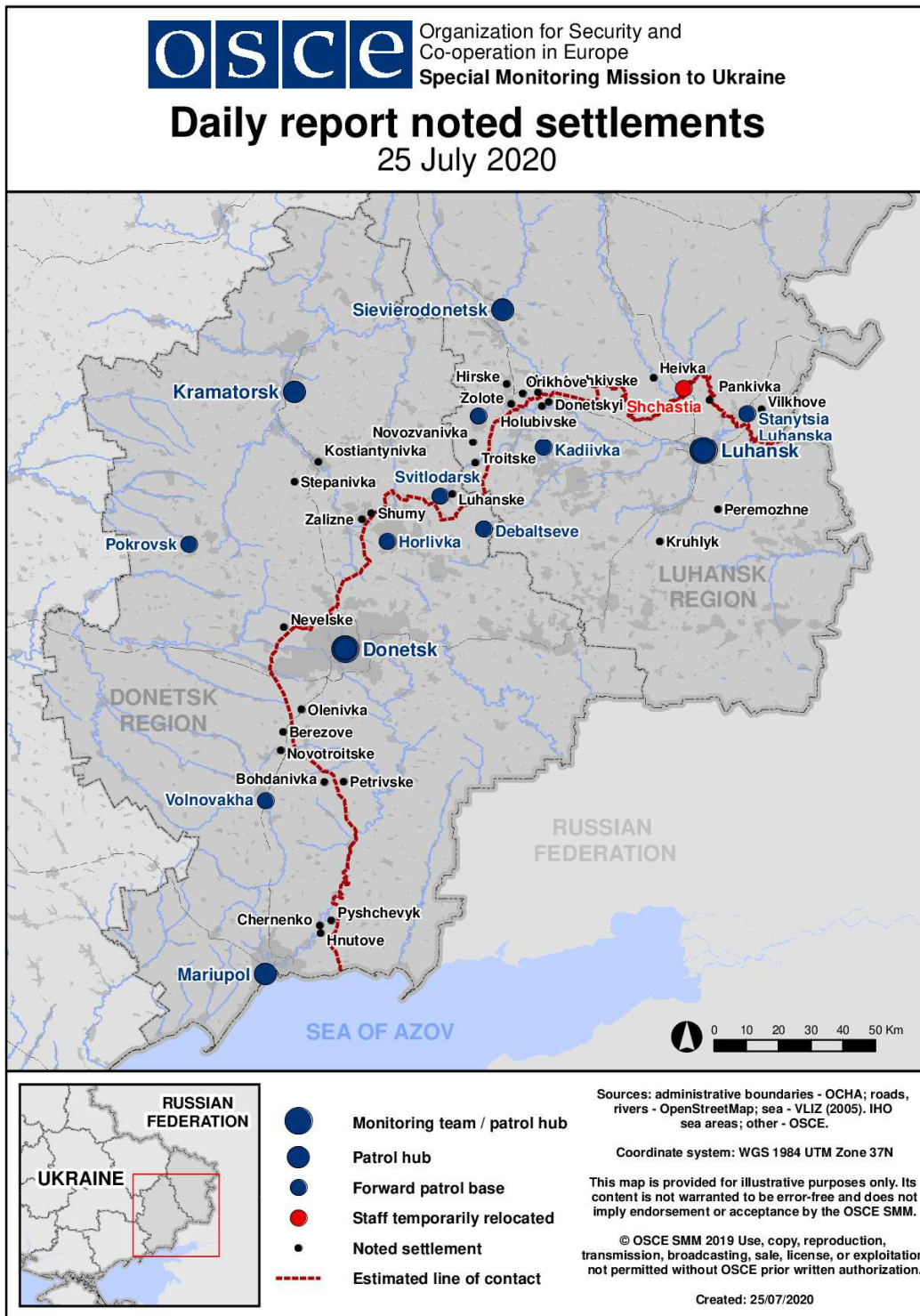
Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 July 2020¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	6-8km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Jul, 21:40
	4-6km ENE	Recorded	8	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	23-Jul, 22:13
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	19	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as inside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 22:14
	2-4km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as inside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 22:15
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (unable to assess if inside or outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	24-Jul, 04:42
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (unable to assess if inside or outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	24-Jul, 04:47
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	13	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	23-Jul, 23:13
	3-5km WSW	Recorded	6	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	23-Jul, 23:57
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 09:49
	2-3km SSW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	24-Jul, 09:49
S part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 12:40
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 12:39
About 7.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-	6-7km W	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 13:29-13:32
	7-8km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 13:43-13:45

¹¹ 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.

controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)							
SMM camera at Prince Ihor Monument SE of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km NE of Luhansk)	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside of the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 23:33
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 23:34
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-3km E	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 23:00
	2-3km E	Recorded	7	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 23:01
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Jul, 23:01
S edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	12-15km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jul, 10:34-10:37
NE edge of Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km S	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	24-Jul, 12:25-12:26

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹²



¹² 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).