

Daily Report 198/2020

20 August 2020¹

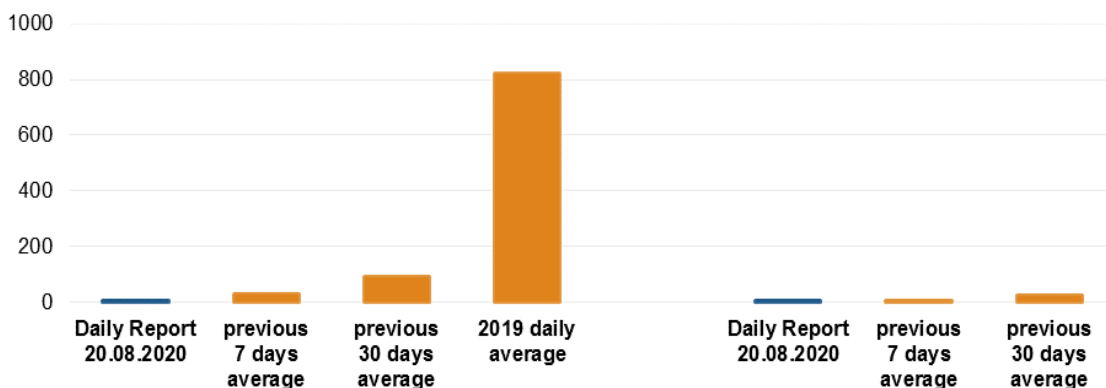
Summary

- The SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in Donetsk region (compared with two in the previous reporting period) and one in Luhansk region (compared with none in the previous reporting period).
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle observed people during evening and night hours inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The SMM observed mines on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, some of which were seen for the first time.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and a corresponding checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



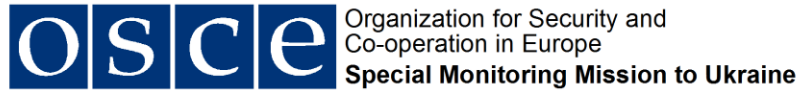
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 19 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

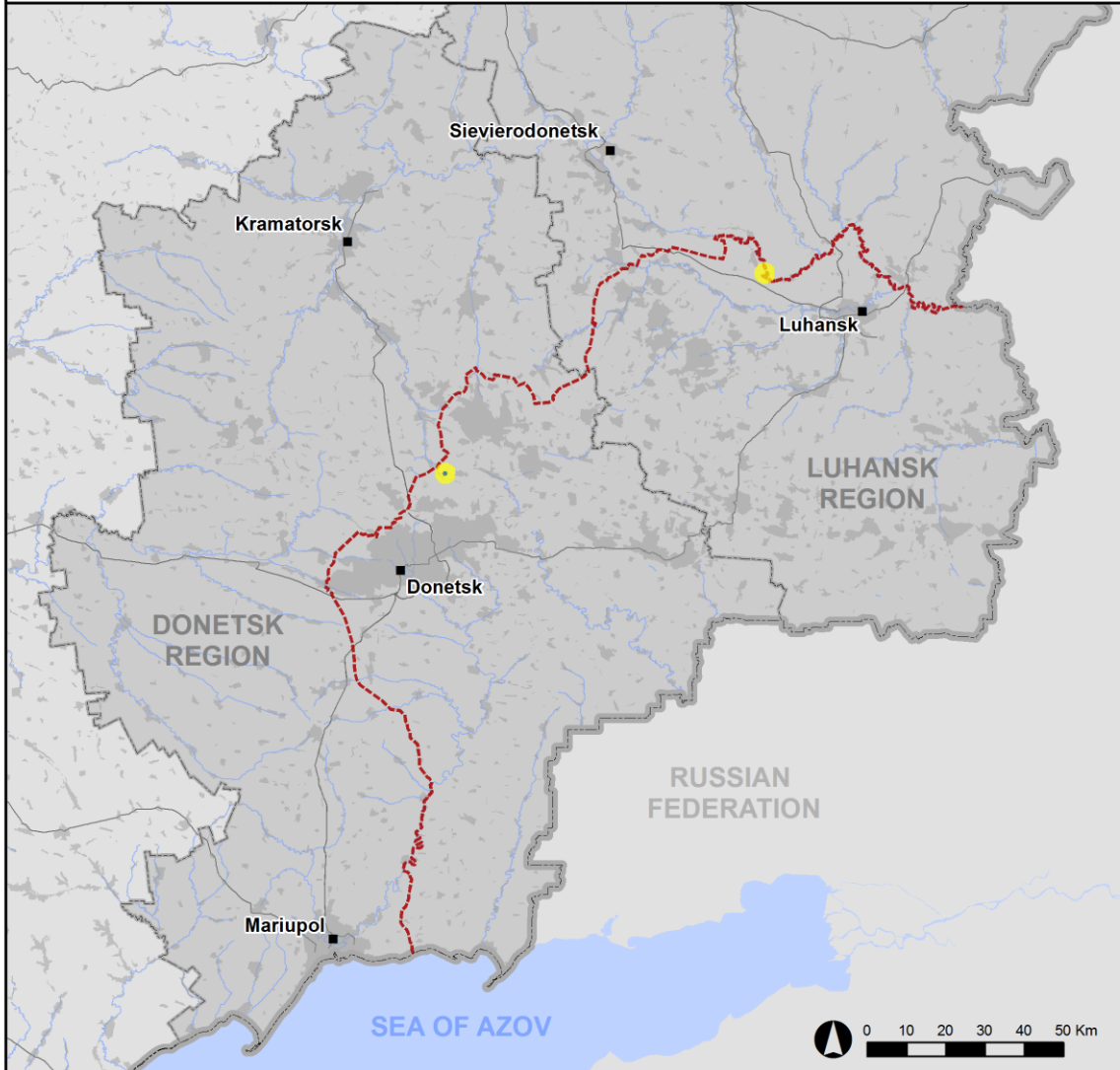
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

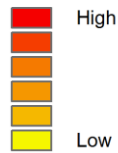
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 August 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: 20/08/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area north-east of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded two ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – a shot of small-arms fire in an area east-south-east of Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations. The Mission last recorded ceasefire violations in the region between the evenings of 16 and 17 August (see [SMM Daily Report 18 August 2020](#)).

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 481 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 89 explosions, two projectiles in flight, six illumination flares and 384 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) on the southern edge of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 18 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.4km south-east of the area’s north-western corner. Also inside the area, the same UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge and about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

During the day on 19 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw seven members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returned.

On the night between 18 and 19 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s south-western corner. Also inside the area, the same UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 19 August, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area near Petrivske, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

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

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

The Mission saw a surface-to-air missile system in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and four towed howitzers beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage areas in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the tables below) .

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁶

The SMM observed armed combat vehicles in government- and non-government controlled areas of Donetsk region and in a government-controlled Luhansk region. (For further details, see the table below.)

Presence of mines near Krasnohorivka, Staromykhailivka and Marinka, Donetsk region

On 17 August, an SMM mid-range UAV [again](#) spotted about 50 anti-tank mines in a field about 2.5km south-south-east of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk). About 1km north of these mines, the same UAV spotted about 50 anti-tank mines (TM-62) laid in two rows across a road between Krasnohorivka and Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk). All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same day, on the western edge of Staromykhailivka, the UAV [again](#) spotted 24 anti-tank mines laid on the abovementioned road, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 17 August, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted about 50 probable anti-tank mines (TM-62) laid in two rows in a field south-east of Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk). About 1km north-north-west of these mines, the same UAV spotted about 30 anti-tank mines (part of a larger minefield) laid adjacent to a local road (for previous observations of mines in this area, see SMM Daily Reports [9 April 2018](#) and [20 December 2019](#)). All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. About 3km further north of the aforementioned mines, the same UAV spotted for the first time 12 probable anti-tank mines (TM-62) in a field, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (not seen in imagery from 12 May 2020).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations for construction works south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above) and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

The SMM also continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance, inspection and repairs to power lines near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora, Novokyivka (25km east of Luhansk), Pionerske (19km east of Luhansk) and Ohulchansk (25km east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near non-government-controlled Yashchykove (46km west of Luhansk), Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk), Olenivka (23km south-west of Donetsk) and government-controlled Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, 40km north-east of Donetsk); repairs

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

to sewage treatment facilities near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk); and demining activities on the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia, near Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk) and near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk).

The SMM also continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (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 about 14:30 and 15:30, the SMM saw in total 40 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 150 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw that two golf carts were transporting people between the EECP and the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 13:00 and 14:20, the SMM saw in total 11 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in total about 75 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

South of the checkpoint, the SMM saw two workers with a cement mixer and welding equipment installing a metal fence on the eastern side of the road, reportedly to prevent people from leaving the asphalted surface.

The Mission 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 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 18 August 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 Mission 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 two occasions, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near non-government-controlled Naberezhne (77km south of Donetsk) and Tavrycheske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷The interference could have originated from anywhere within a radius of kilometres from 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				
18/08/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Ozarianivka (52km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
19/08/2020	4	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Khlিবodariivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/08/2020	-	Trench extension (56m long) (not seen in imagery from 5 August 2020)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk), about 250m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Petrivske	Aerial imagery
18/08/2020	-	Trench (about 80m long) (not seen in imagery from 7 June 2020)	Near Svitlodarsk (57km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable anti-aircraft gun (type undetermined)		
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a residential area of Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk)	
1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)			
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/08/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In Horlivka (39km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Probable armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-2)		

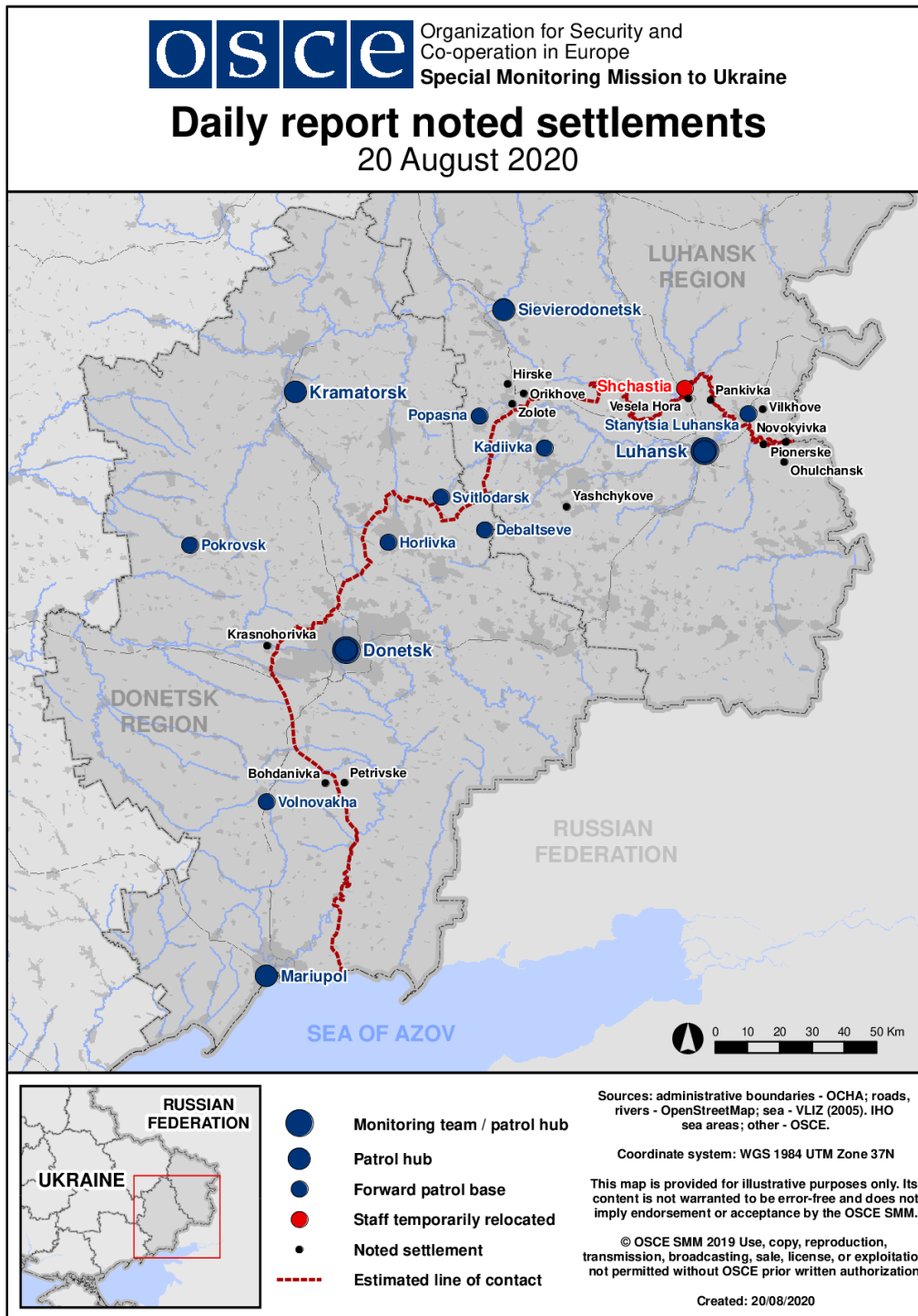
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 August 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km E of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Donetsk)	8-10km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Aug, 10:42
S edge of Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km NW of Luhansk)	1.5-2km ESE	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	19-Aug, 11:57

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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.)