

# Daily Report 199/2020

21 August 2020<sup>1</sup>

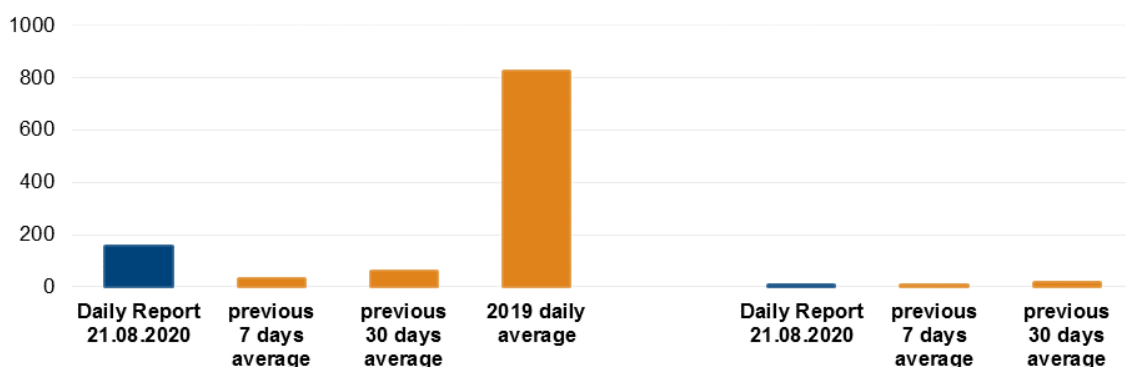
## Summary

- The SMM recorded 153 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region (compared with one in the previous reporting period) and none in Luhansk region (compared with one 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 Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at an entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

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

### Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

### Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



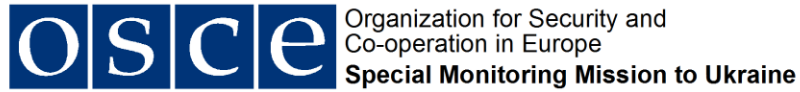
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

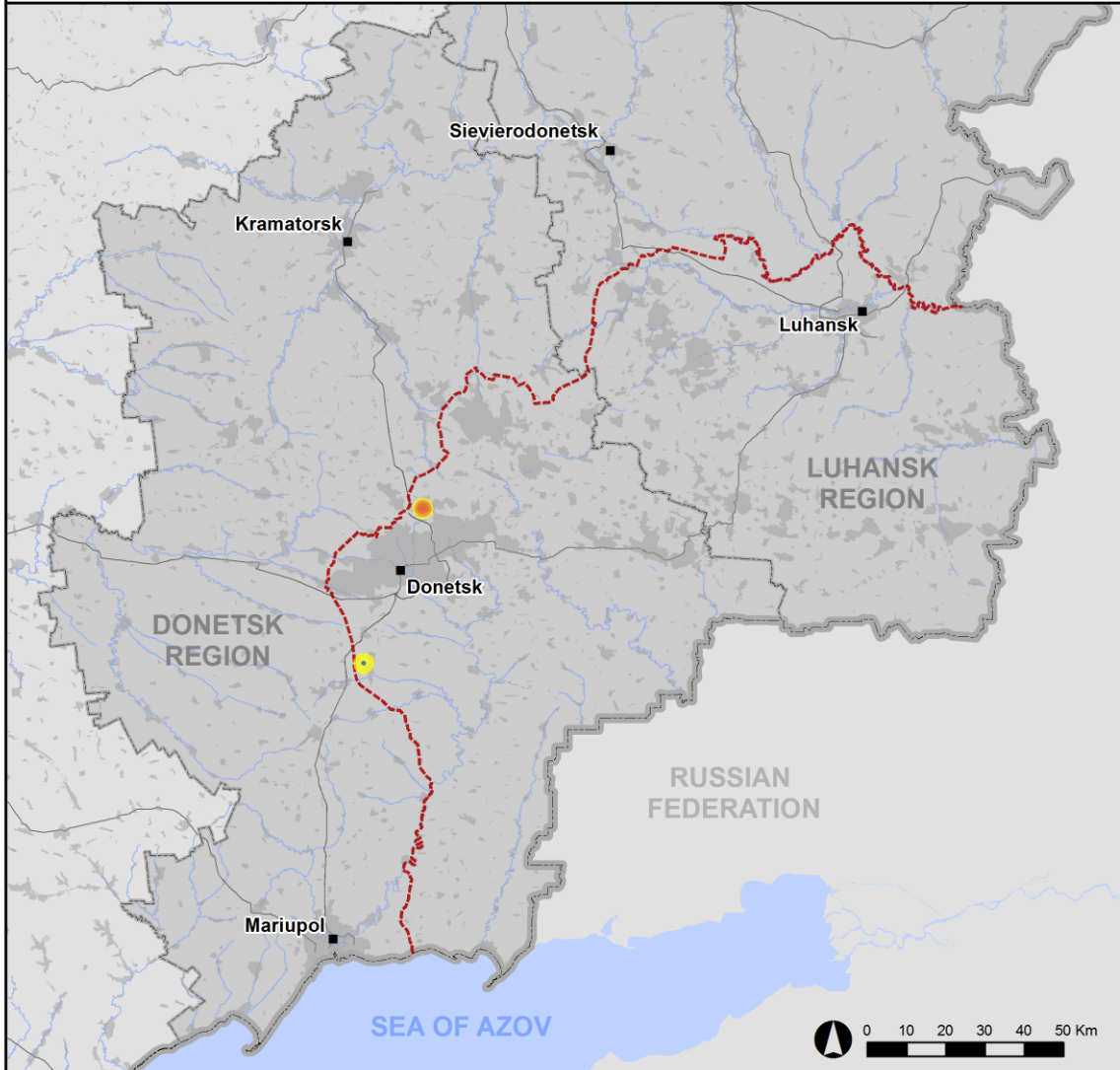
<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

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

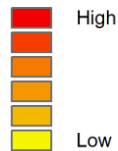
### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 20 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: 21/08/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 153 ceasefire violations, including three explosions. Almost all ceasefire violations were recorded in areas south-east of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

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 634 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 92 explosions, two projectiles in flight, six illumination flares and 534 bursts and shots).

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

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two 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 19 August, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person near a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near its north-eastern corner. On the same evening, the same UAV spotted a person near a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 20 August, inside the disengagement area, about 600m south of its northern edge, the SMM saw Ukrainian Armed Forces officers from the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) walking south along road T-1316.

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, about 350m north of its southern edge, the Mission spotted two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four 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, accompanied by four people in protective gowns.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 350m south of its southern edge, the SMM saw 18 workers conducting groundwork with heavy construction equipment.

On the night of 19 August, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of its south-western corner. On the same night, the same UAV also spotted a person near a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

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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.

On 20 August, while positioned at four 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.

In government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, the Mission saw a probable surface-to-air missile system in violation of withdrawal lines, as well as three surface-to-air missile systems beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites (for further details, see the tables below).

### **Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The SMM observed armed combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in government- and non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the table below).

### **New mine sign near Raivka, Luhansk region**

The Mission saw for the first time a new mine hazard sign (30x30cm red wooden board with “Stop Mines” in Cyrillic) attached to a tree about 20m north of a road about 1.5km north-east of Raivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north-west of Luhansk).

### **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 Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) and near Vesela Hora; repairs to water infrastructure near Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), Kleban Byk (government-controlled, 48km north of Donetsk) and non-government-controlled Yashchykove (46km west of Luhansk), Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk) and Olenivka (23km south-west of Donetsk); and demining activities on the northern side of the bridge in Shchastia and near government-controlled Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk), Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk), Trokhizbenka (32km north-west of Luhansk) and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

While positioned 1km north-east of Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk) to monitor adherence to a localised ceasefire during repairs to water

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

infrastructure near Olenivka (see above), the Mission recorded three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of about 4-6km east-south-east.

The SMM also continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS and to monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk). While positioned near the DFS, the Mission heard 150 bursts and shots of small-arms fire within a 5km radius of the station (see above and table below).

### **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 bridge and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at about 10:30 and 11:30, the SMM saw about 180 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and about 250 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.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, Odessa, 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.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
18/08/2020	1	Probable surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	Near Novoselivka (31km 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
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/08/2020	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	Near Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

### **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>				
18/08/2020	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Novoselivka (31km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
19/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a residential area of Chermalyk (77km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
20/08/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
20/08/2020	1	Armored personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, 50km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

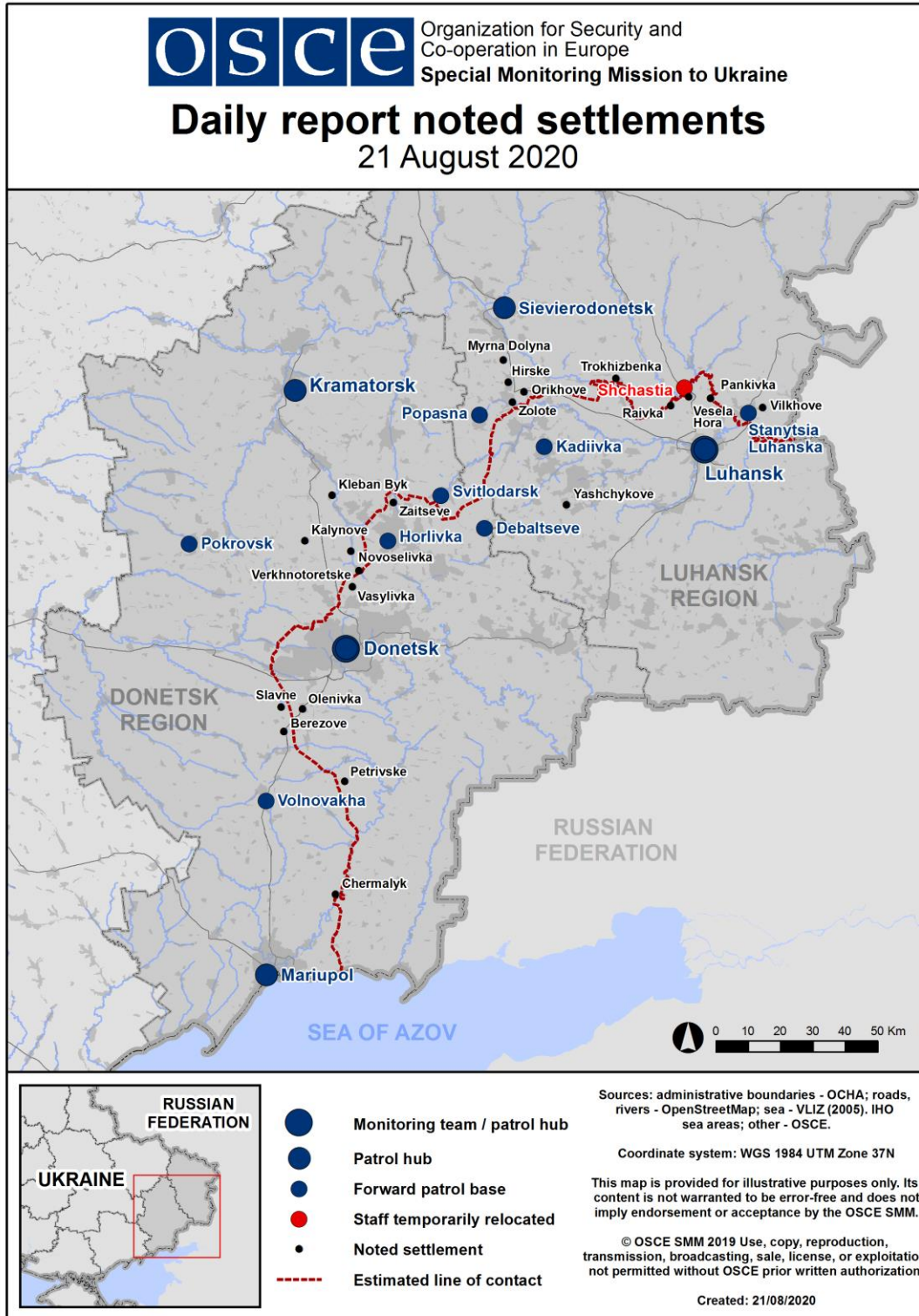
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 August 2020<sup>8</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	50	Burst		Small arms	20-Aug, 09:22-09:48
	1-2km SE	Heard	100	Shot		Small arms	20-Aug, 09:22-09:48
About 1km NE of Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km ESE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Aug, 10:19-10:22

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<sup>8</sup> 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 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 has temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States as well as



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SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well.)