

Daily Report 241/2020

9 October 2020¹

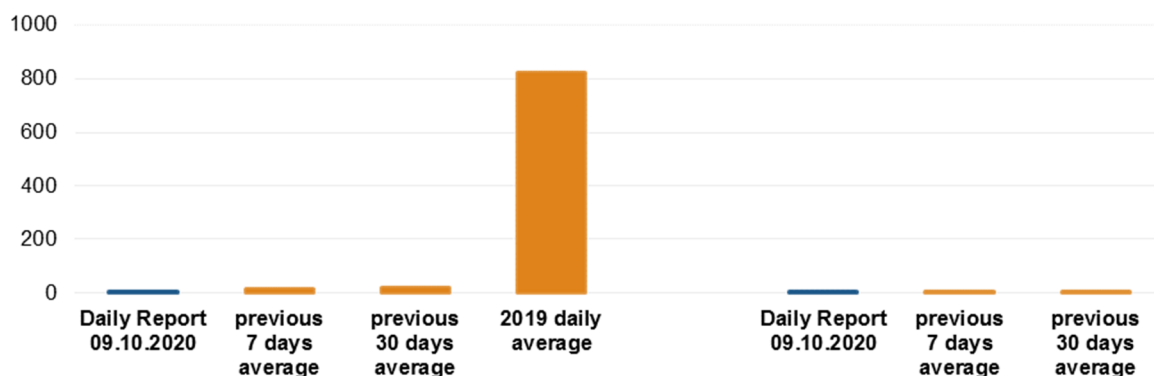
Summary

- The SMM recorded four ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 36 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and two in Luhansk region.
- A man died due to the detonation of an explosive object in Obozne, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening and night hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people 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.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations 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, 8 October 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 camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

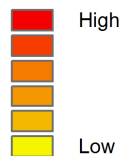


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 8 October 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: 09/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations (including three undetermined explosions), all of which occurred at easterly and southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 36 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire in areas south of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded two undetermined explosions.

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 1,561 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 349 explosions, 17 projectiles in flight, seven muzzle flashes, 18 illumination flares and 1,170 bursts and shots).

Man died from detonation of explosive object in Obozne, Luhansk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a 62-year-old man who died due to the explosion of an object in his yard in Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk) on 30 September 2020.

On 3 October, at 12 Kooperatyvna Street in Obozne, an 84-year-old woman, who introduced herself as the mother of the man, told the SMM that at 21:00 on 30 September, she had been inside her house when she heard a loud sound outside, similar to that of an explosion. She told the Mission that at 07:00 the next morning, she had gone outside and had seen her son sitting on a bench with injuries to his head, missing fingers on his right hand and partially burnt clothes. Soon after, an ambulance had arrived from Sloviatorbysk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk), and paramedics had pronounced her son dead. On 6 October, ambulance staff told the Mission over the phone that on 1 October, an ambulance was dispatched to Obozne, where it had registered the death of a 62-year-old man. On 5 October, staff at a morgue in Sloviatorbysk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk) refused to provide the Mission information about the man over the phone, citing the need to obtain permission from those in control.* On 7 October, in Obozne, a woman in her fifties, who introduced herself as a neighbour of the man, told the SMM that on the morning of 1 October, she had seen the dead body of her neighbour and an ambulance arrive at his house.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 8 October, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the night between 7 and 8 October, 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 near the railway tracks, about 1.2km east of the area’s western edge and about 1.2km south of its northern edge. The same UAV also spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near its eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 8 October, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission observed six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom, accompanied by three people wearing medical protective gear, walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

Throughout the day, about 50-500m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM observed 25 workers with heavy equipment conducting works, including laying asphalt, on the sides of road T-1316 and a crane placing two containers about 150m south of the area’s southern edge, assessed as part of installation of office premises. The Mission also saw another 11 workers clearing vegetation inside the disengagement area up to 50m north of its southern edge.

On the evening of 7 October, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person and two probable people inside a former position of the armed formations near its south-eastern corner.

On 8 October, outside the disengagement area, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission observed two men in military-type clothing, both walking in a western direction, as well as three cars and a military truck close to the checkpoint of the armed formations. While positioned north of Petrivske, the SMM saw two cars transporting a total of seven men in military-type clothing driving in the direction of Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk).

On the same day, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of weapons

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

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Anti-tank mines near Kruta Balka, Donetsk region

On 7 October, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted six of 12 [previously reported](#) anti-tank mines (TM-62) laid in three rows across a road about 200m from civilian houses on the northern outskirts of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

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

About 200m north-west of the Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint north of the bridge in Shchastia, at the junction of roads H-21 and T-1309, the SMM observed 12 workers with heavy equipment conducting groundworks.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); maintenance of power lines in the area of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km north-west of Luhansk), near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) and between government-controlled Travneve (51km north-east of Donetsk) and Hladosove (51km north-east of Donetsk); repairs to a sewage treatment plant near Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote; and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. On 8 October, while positioned at two locations close to the DFS, the Mission heard four ceasefire violations (including three undetermined explosions) within a 5km radius of the station.

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

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 9:00 and 11:00, the SMM saw in total 40 people (24 women and 16 men, mixed ages) entering government-controlled areas and in total 40 people (20 women and 20 men, mixed ages) traveling in the opposite direction. The SMM also saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

While at the checkpoint of the armed formations at about 12:30 and 13:50, the Mission observed in total four people (three women and one man, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in total 11 people (six women and five men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. At the same checkpoint, a man in his fifties told the SMM that he had travelled to government-controlled areas with his daughter and her family where she had renewed her passport and that his daughter had not been allowed to re-enter non-government-controlled areas, as her new passport did not show that she lived in non-government-controlled areas.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 75 minutes, the Mission observed 14 cars (including four with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks and two full buses with “DPR” plates, as well as 35 pedestrians (21 women and 14 men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed eight cars

(including four with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks and a tanker with “DPR” plates, three minivans, and two full buses (including one with “DPR” plates), as well as 47 pedestrians (23 men and 21 women, mixed ages, and three children) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 25 minutes, the SMM saw no cross-border traffic.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Kharkiv, 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 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 5 October 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 5 October, staff at a morgue in Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk) declined to provide information regarding a civilian casualty over the phone, citing the need to obtain permission from those in control.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
07/10/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Toretsk (formerly Dzerzhynsk, 43km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Probable armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Vodiane (15km north-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP-1 and one probable BMP-1)	Near Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
07/10/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Pakhalivka (40km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

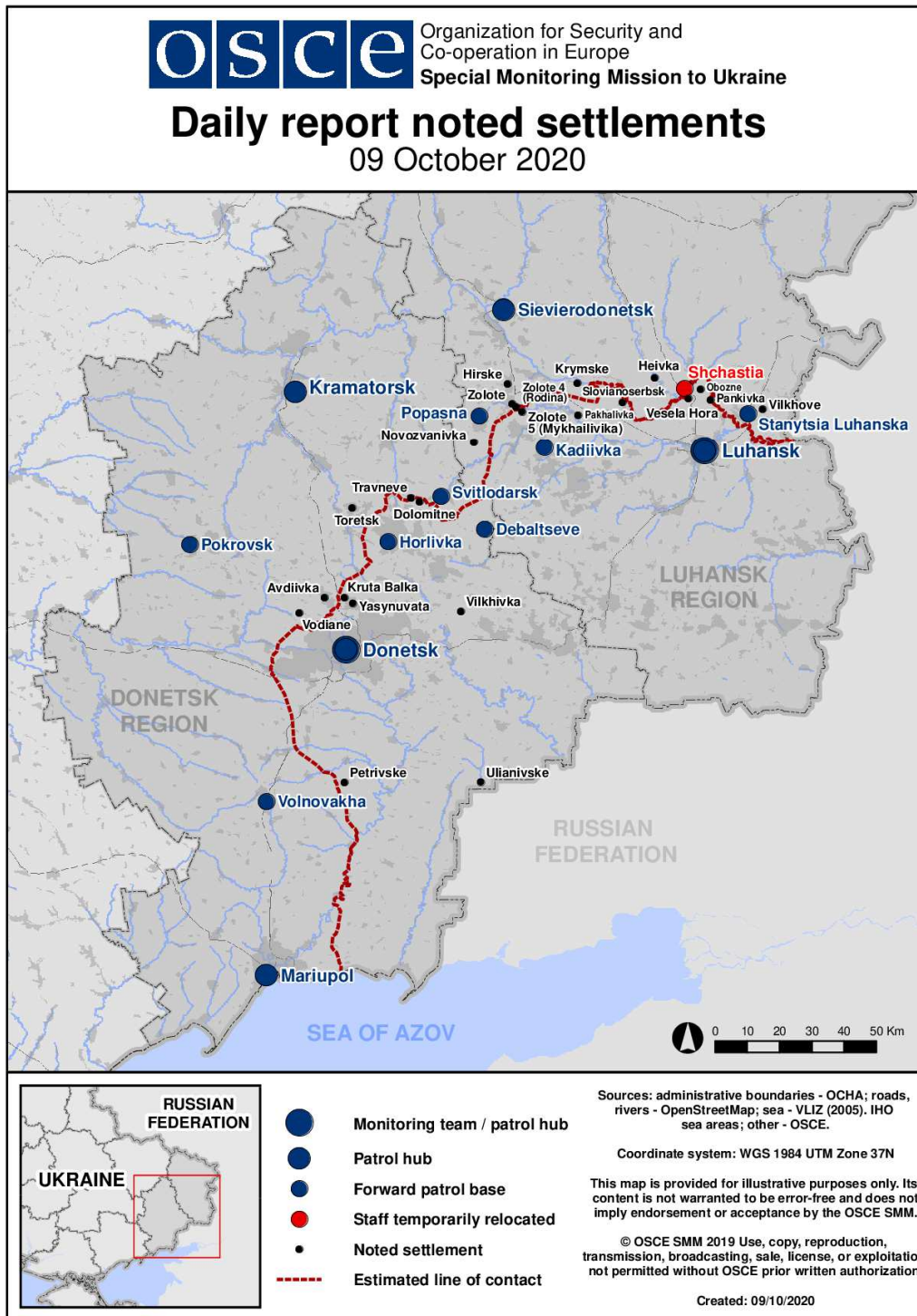
⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 8 October 2020⁷

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)	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Oct, 09:45
	3-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Oct, 09:50
	3-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Oct, 09:55
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	8-Oct, 14:34

⁷ 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 regions⁸



⁸ 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).