

Daily Report 252/2020

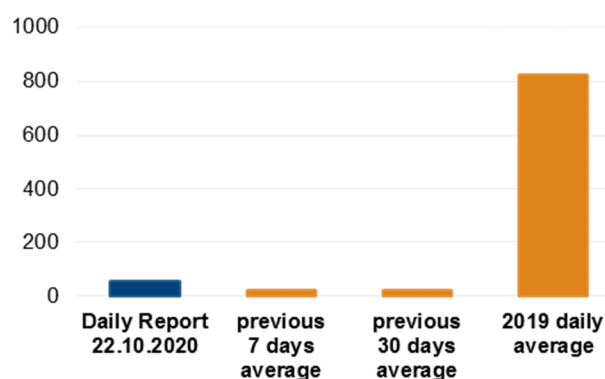
22 October 2020¹

Summary

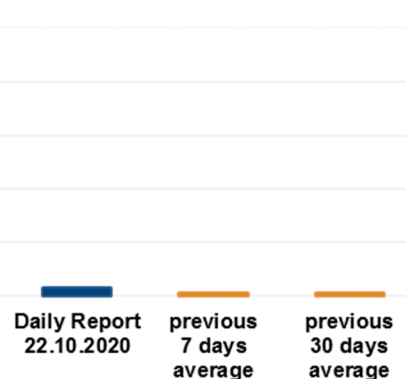
- The SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. 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, including repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka and to enable construction work north and south of the bridge in Shchastia, in government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit 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, 21 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 cameras in Petrivske and Berezove were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

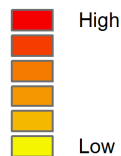


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 21 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: 22/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 30 explosions (three assessed as outgoing artillery rounds and 27 undetermined), most of which were within a 5km radius of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations, one of which was within a 5km radius of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission also recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the SMM recorded a ceasefire violation in the region was on 15 October (see [SMM Daily Report 17 October 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 1,787 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 497 explosions, 29 projectiles in flight, 16 muzzle flashes, 22 illumination flares and 1,223 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned in government-controlled areas of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On the night of 20-21 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 area's north-eastern corner.

On 21 October, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). On the same day, the Mission saw four people in military-type clothing, holding metal detectors (with one carrying a missile tube, assessed as a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG)-29 but without visible ammunition) leaving the disengagement area.

On the same day, about 250m south of the disengagement area's southern edge, the Mission saw about 31 workers with heavy equipment, of whom five were placing tiles on the sidewalks on both sides of road T-1316, 12 were working on electricity poles, eight were conducting road works with a bulldozer and six were painting a concrete shelter about 300m south of the area's southern edge.

On the evening of 20 October, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner. On the same day after 11:00, an SMM mini-UAV spotted two people (most probably male) in military-type clothing standing outside the area, about 100m east-north-east from its north-eastern corner.

On 21 October, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission observed two members of the armed formations, pushing a cart loaded with a barrel and several canisters, heading west toward Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk).

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 also observed a man (in his thirties) in military-type clothing driving a vehicle with “DPR” plates heading west.

On the same day, while positioned in four locations near the disengagement area, the SMM 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.

Aerial imagery made available to the SMM revealed 21 tanks beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites at a training area near Kruhlyk (non-government-controlled, 31km south-west of Luhansk) (for further information, see the table below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles, in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region and near a residential area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further details, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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.

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote – inside as well as north and south of the disengagement area – and of road H-21 south of Shchastia; and demining activities near Hirske (government-controlled, 63km west of Luhansk).

North of the bridge in Shchastia, at the junction of roads H-21 and T-1309, about 190m north-west of the checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the Mission saw 11 workers with heavy equipment putting windows and doors on a newly built structure consisting of containers and metal constructions. Near a checkpoint of the armed formations about 2.5km east of Vesela Hora and about 3km south-east of the bridge, the SMM saw 26 workers from non-government-controlled areas laying asphalt and electric cables, installing containers with a crane and fixing poles. The Mission also observed an excavator transporting chopped wood from the area north-west from the checkpoint.

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned in three locations near the station, the Mission heard 13 ceasefire violations including four explosions (three assessed as outgoing artillery rounds) within a 5km radius of the station.

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

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 remained non-operational. On 21 October, a representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine told the SMM that the EECP would remain closed until 31 October because of COVID-19 mitigation measures, with special exceptions.⁷

While at the EECP at about 09:00, 11:00 and 15:00, the Mission saw in total 160 people (110 women and 50 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas.

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 12 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.

⁷ Notice about the EECP's temporary closure from 15 October to 31 October 2020 was published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on 13 October.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/10/2020	21	Tank (type undetermined)	At a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

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

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
20/10/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/10/2020	7	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound near a residential area in Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

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

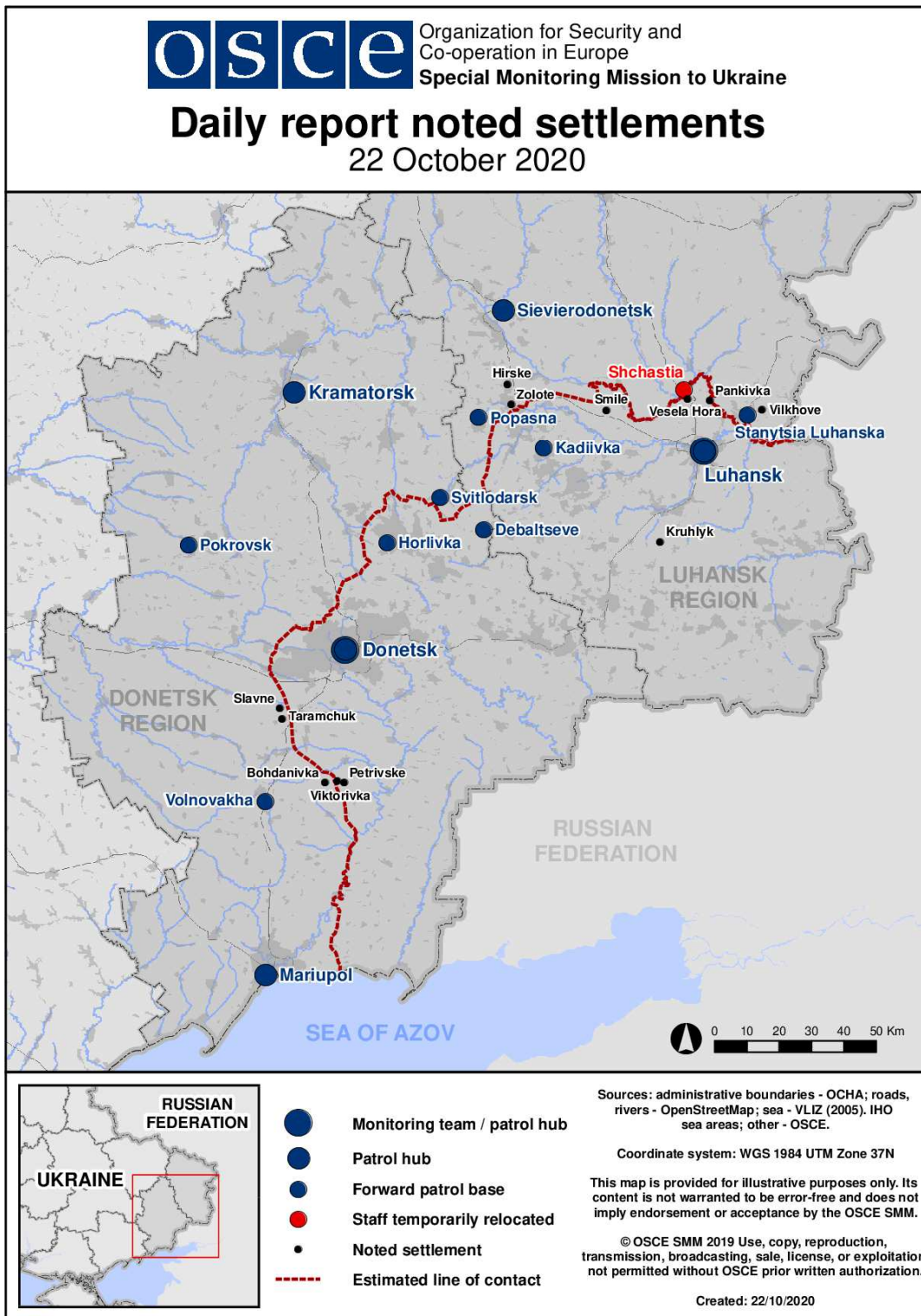
Table of ceasefire violations as of 21 October 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:07
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:07
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW		20-Oct, 21:07
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW		20-Oct, 21:10
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to the previous event		20-Oct, 21:10
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE		20-Oct, 21:10
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE		20-Oct, 21:11
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE		20-Oct, 21:12
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:12
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE		20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW		20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash			20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW		20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:14
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE		20-Oct, 21:15
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:23
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW		20-Oct, 21:25
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:25
	SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		
0.5-1km S		Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:07
1-2km S		Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:07
0.7-1.2km SSW		Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE		20-Oct, 21:11

⁹ 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.

	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka		20-Oct, 21:11
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:12
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka		20-Oct, 21:12
	0.5-1km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:15
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	2	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:16
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	2	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:17
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	2	Explosion			20-Oct, 21:20
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash			20-Oct, 21:23
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:23
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:23
	1-2km S	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE		20-Oct, 21:24
	1-2km S	Recorded	2	Explosion	Subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:24
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE		20-Oct, 21:25
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Air burst, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:25
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash			20-Oct, 21:27
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE, subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:27
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Subsequent to previous event		20-Oct, 21:27
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	21-Oct, 09:20
	2-3km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	21-Oct, 14:20
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 14:22
	2-4km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	21-Oct, 14:35
About 700m WSW of Yasynuvata Railway station (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	4-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 11:28
	4-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 11:45
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	21-Oct, 11:51
Yasynuvata Railway station (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Outgoing	Artillery (type N/K)	21-Oct, 12:38
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	Artillery (type N/K)	21-Oct, 12:48

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 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,)