

Daily Report 157/2021

8 July 2021¹

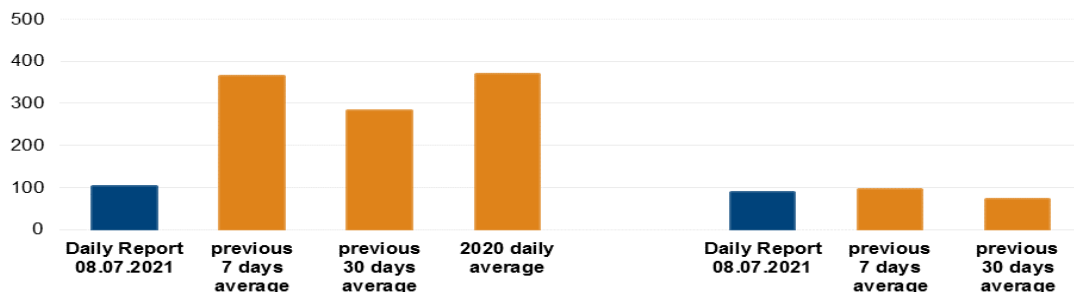
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 75 ceasefire violations, including 63 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 136 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations, including nine explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 328 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Pionerske, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of and maintenance to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points and monitored border areas outside government control in Donetsk region where it observed no change in the security situation.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region: at a permanent storage site and a heavy weapons holding area, and near Vilkhivka, where the SMM landed its UAV after a member of the armed formations threatened to shoot it down. Its UAVs also again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



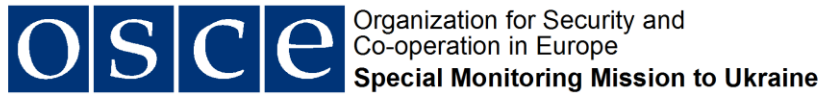
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 July 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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.

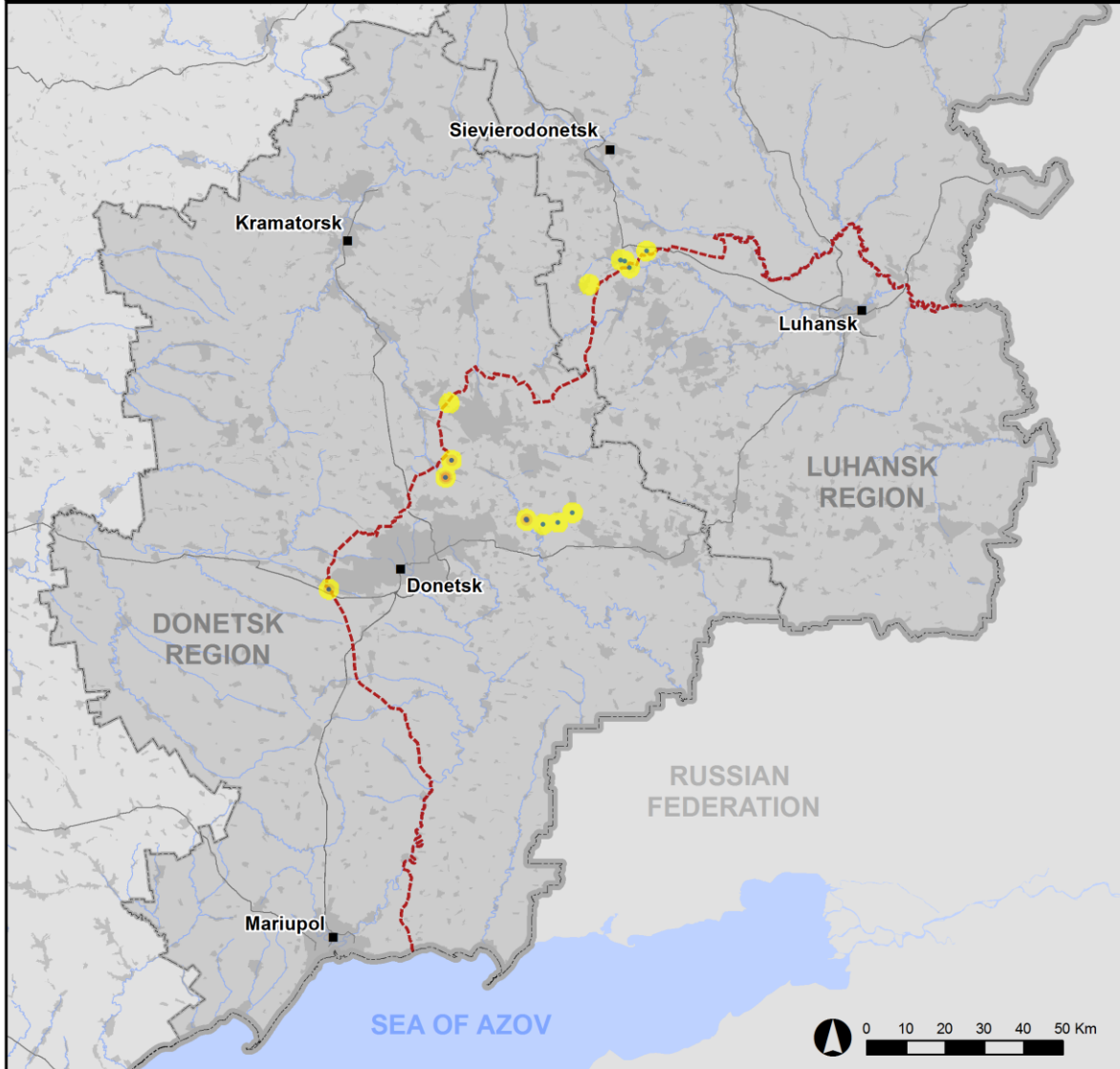
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 7 July 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low

- 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: 08/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 75 ceasefire violations, including 63 explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area north-east of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) and at south-easterly directions of Nyzhnia Krynka (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk), including outgoing rounds and impacts of multiple launch rocket systems and artillery, all of which were assessed a live-fire exercise inside the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 136 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations, including nine explosions (eight undetermined and one airburst). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below.) In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 328 ceasefire violations, some of which near the aforementioned disengagement area.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 42,157 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 12,863 explosions, 6,556 projectiles in flight, 238 muzzle flashes, 130 illumination flares and at least 22,370 bursts and shots).

The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Pionerske, Luhansk region

The SMM was positioned in Pionerske (non-government-controlled, 19km east of Luhansk), to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. From 12:11 to 12:27, while the SMM was flying over an area about 2-3km west of its position, the UAV experienced signal interference, after which the SMM lost spatial control over it. The Mission was unable to retrieve the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 6 July, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded four undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 1-3km east-north-east. During the day on 7 July, while positioned at two locations close to the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area, but within 5km of its periphery.

On 7 July, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area.

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

While positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), 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.

Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone

The SMM saw an armoured personnel carrier near a residential area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable maintenance to power lines near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open while the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed. It also observed that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was open, but did not observe any traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

On the morning of 7 July, at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge the SMM observed a stationary ambulance and two medical staff (a man in his forties and a woman in her thirties) providing assistance to a man (in his fifties) and a woman (in her eighties) who appeared to be physically exhausted, reportedly after crossing from government-controlled areas.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, but that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed. At the latter checkpoint, the Mission observed five workers (men, mixed ages) working on a metal ramp for disabled people to access sanitary facilities, as well as cutting vegetation and conducting maintenance to a fence.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point⁶ near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 100 minutes, the Mission saw 11 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates”), two cargo trucks carrying timber (both with “DPR” plates), three buses (all with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 25 people (nine women and 12 men of mixed ages, and four children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 47 cars (including 30 with “DPR” and one with “LPR” plates), 32 covered cargo trucks (including 22 with “DPR” plates), four buses (all with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 18 people (five women and ten men, mixed ages and three children) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 40 minutes, the Mission observed no traffic entering or exiting Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored areas along the border outside government control near the border with the Russian Federation near Lysyche (66km south-east of Donetsk) and Kharkivske (63km south-east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

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, 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 Minsk agreements 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 Coordination (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 7 July 2021](#)). 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.

Denials:⁷

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Molodyi Shakhtar (non-government-controlled, 35km east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Vilkhivka (non-government-controlled, 40km east of Donetsk) citing “orders from superiors” and “an ongoing live-fire exercise in the area”. (See above.)
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the settlement, citing “orders from superiors”.

⁶ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

⁷ The SMM Daily Report of 7 July 2021 should have read: “The SMM could not access two heavy weapons holding areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, as no personnel was present to open their locked gates”.

- While conducting an announced mini-UAV flight near Vilkhivka, a member of the armed formations approached the SMM and requested it to land the UAV, delete its imagery and leave the area or the aircraft would be shot down. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area, without deleting the imagery.
- The SMM could not access one permanent storage site and one heavy weapons holding area in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, as four members of the armed formations, some of whom visibly armed, asked the Mission to leave the areas citing “orders from superiors”.
- Near Dovhe (non-government-controlled, 22km north-west of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations, one of whom visibly armed, asked the Mission to leave the area.

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 impediments⁸:

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two flights over areas near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and one flight each over areas near Khartsyzk (non-government-controlled, 26km east of Donetsk), Lypske (formerly Krasnyi Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 27km north-east of Donetsk) and Pionerske (non-government-controlled, 19km east of Luhansk). During the latter flight, it lost spatial control over its UAV. The SMM was unable to retrieve the UAV. (See above.)

⁸ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs’ positions.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
7/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (undetermined variant)	Near a residential area in Dokuchaievsk (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

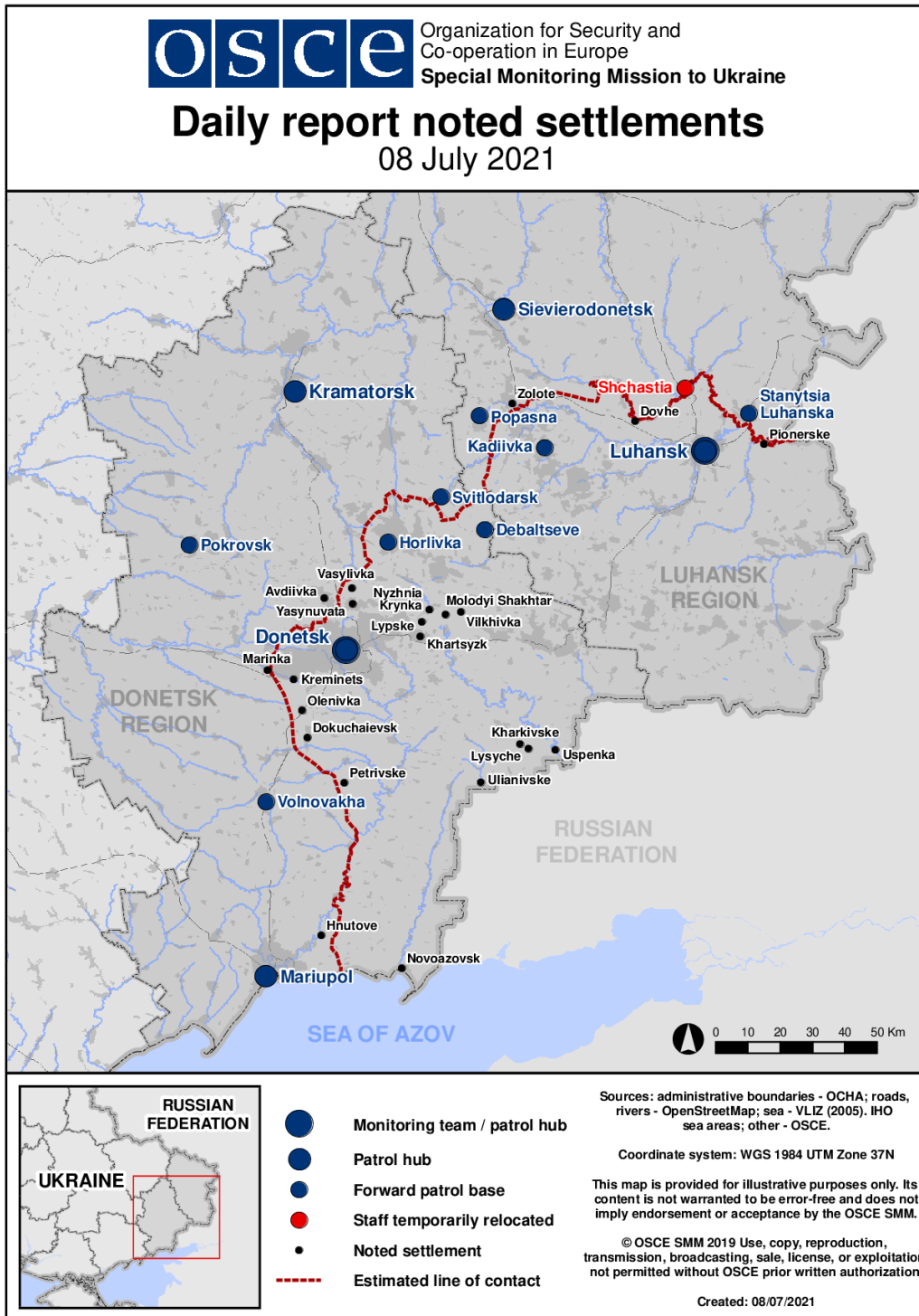
Table of ceasefire violations as of 7 July 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 2.5km ESE of Nyzhnia Krynka (non-government-controlled, 31km NE of Donetsk)	2-2.5km SSE	Heard	5	Explosion	Outgoing	MLRS (type N/K)	7-Jul, 10:34-10:40
	10-15km E	Heard	5	Explosion	Impact	MLRS (type N/K)	7-Jul, 10:34-10:40
	2km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Outgoing	MLRS (BM-21 Grad, 122mm)	7-Jul, 10:48-10:53
	2km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Outgoing	Artillery (type N/K)	7-Jul, 10:48-10:53
	2km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Impact	Artillery (type N/K)	7-Jul, 10:48-10:53
Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	8-10km NE	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 11:17-11:29
About 2.5km ESE of Molodyi Shakhtar (non-government-controlled, 35km E of Donetsk)	2km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Outgoing	Artillery (type N/K)	7-Jul, 11:28-11:39
	2.5km ESE	Heard	6	Explosion	Impact	Artillery (type N/K)	7-Jul, 11:28-11:39
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	9-10km NE	Heard	18	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 12:19-12:36
	9-10km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 12:42-12:53
	9-10km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 13:14
About 7.5km NNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km N	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	7-Jul, 11:10
EECP in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km ENE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 11:38-11:50
	1-2km ENE	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	7-Jul, 11:38-11:50
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-5km SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	7-Jul, 01:50
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Jul, 22:16
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Jul, 22:18
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Jul, 22:20
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Jul, 22:27
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event) (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Jul, 22:27

¹⁰ 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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	7-Jul, 08:12
	8-10km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jul, 11:18
SW edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	7-Jul, 09:52

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).