

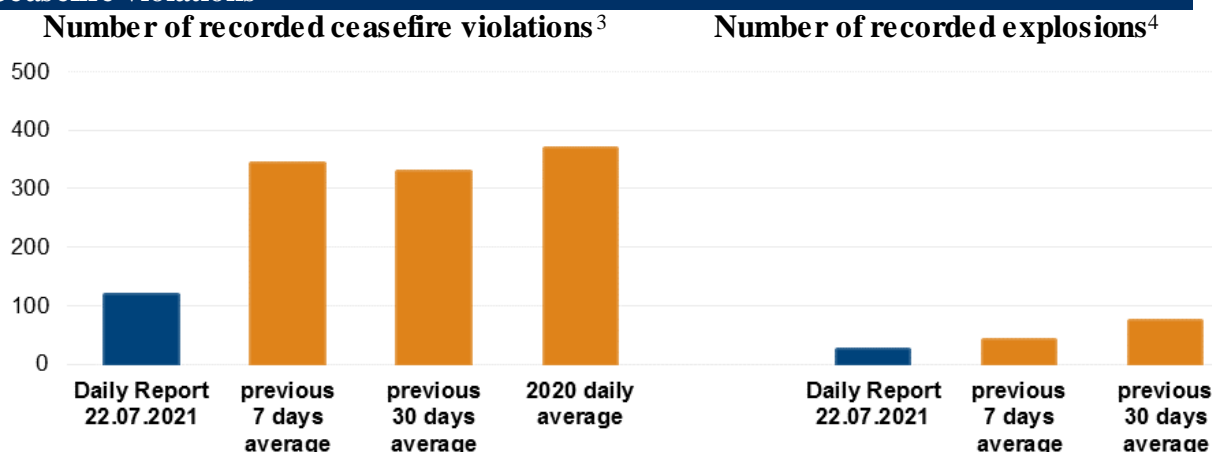
Daily Report 169/2021

22 July 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 98 ceasefire violations, including seven explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 40 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations, including 19 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in the 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 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 a border crossing point outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM monitored two gatherings in Kyiv.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at six checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 July 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

³ Including explosions.

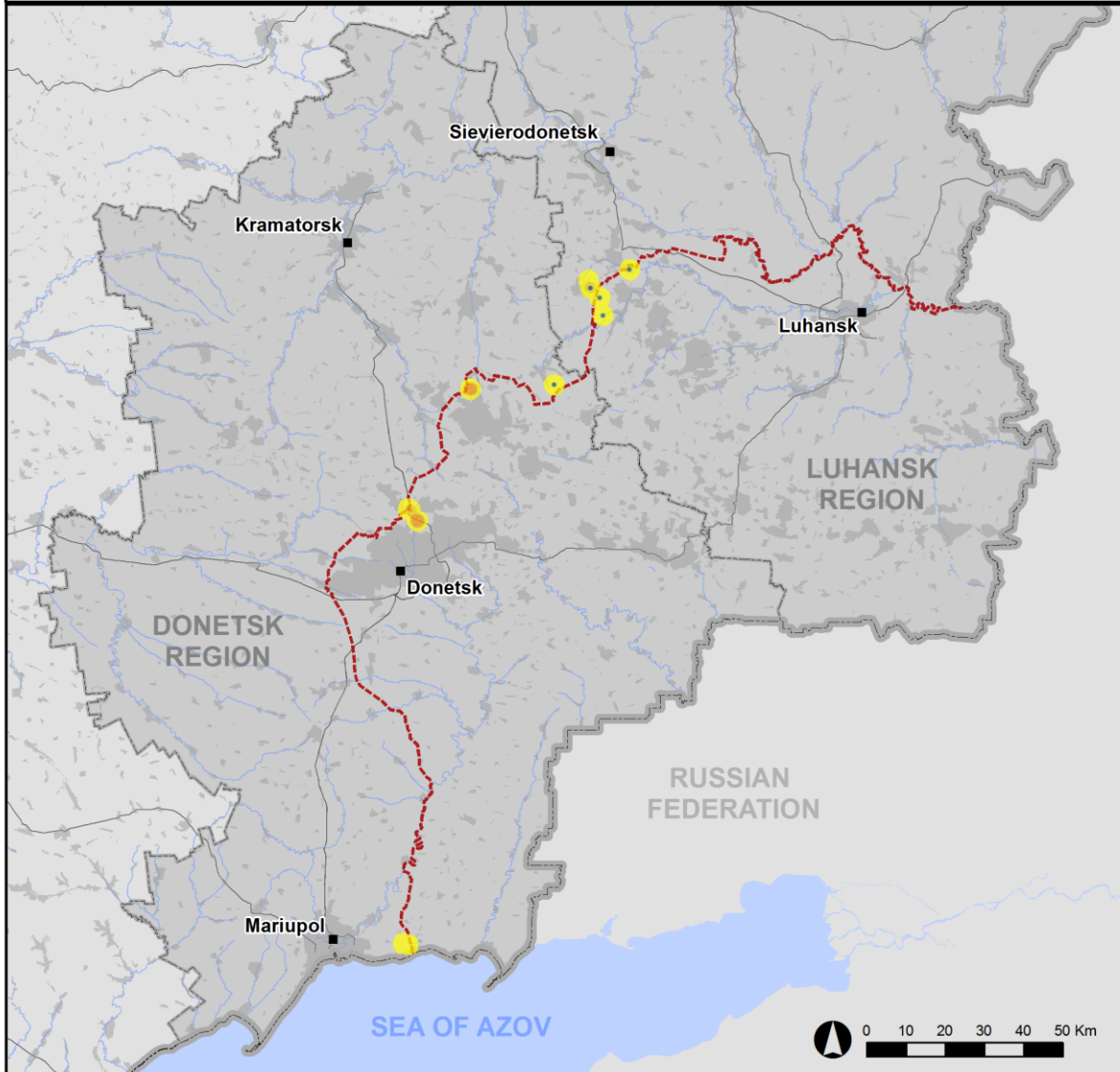
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

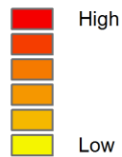


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 21 July 2021



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: 22/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 98 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area east of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and in an area east-north-east of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 40 ceasefire violations, of which the majority also occurred near Maiorsk.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations, including 19 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations.

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 46,032 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,479 explosions, 8,701 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 169 illumination flares and at least 23,421 bursts and shots).

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 two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

While positioned on the southern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2-4km north-east, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four 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.

While positioned at three 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw a towed gun and four self-propelled howitzers in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At four heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region
21 July

The SMM noted that ten towed howitzers (2A36 *Giatsint-B*, 152mm), six anti-tank guns (four MT-12 *Rapira*, 100mm and two 9P149 *Shturm-S*, 130mm) and nine multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) were present. During its previous visit, the Mission saw 32 weapons present and 19 missing.

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

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

SMM facilitation of the operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk). During the day, while positioned at three locations near the DFS, the SMM heard 54 bursts of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed. The SMM also observed that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was open, but did not see traffic passing through in either direction.

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 queuing to travel in both directions. At the EECP, the SMM observed for the first time that two new containers had been placed between the EECP's booths. A representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine told the Mission that these containers will be used as office space for the EECP's staff.

On 21 July, the SMM 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. While at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Zolote, the Mission observed a worker connecting wires, reportedly a phone line, in a metal box located on its eastern side. While at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Shchastia, the SMM observed an armoured personnel carrier (BTR-variant) near the checkpoint, later travelling south on road H-21.

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

Border areas outside government control

While positioned at a border crossing point⁷ near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk), for about 30 minutes, the SMM observed seven cars (including six with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (including one with “DPR” plates) and one mini-bus (without passengers) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it saw seven cars (including five with “DPR” plates) and four covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates) exiting Ukraine.

The SMM observed two gatherings in Kyiv

On 20 July, in front of the Ministry of Internal Affairs at 10 Akademika Bohomoltsia Street, the SMM observed about 150 people (mixed gender, in their twenties) expressing support for the defendants in the trial of the murder of journalist Pavel Sheremet. It also saw about 300 law enforcement officers. The gathering dispersed peacefully.

On 21 July, at 10 Moskovska Street, in front of the 6th Administrative Court of Appeals, the SMM saw 25 men (in their twenties), some of whom were wearing C14 insignia. The Mission noted that the court was examining the case of deportation of a Belarusian citizen activist. The SMM heard the protesters chanting slogans in support of the deportation. The Mission saw 54 law enforcement officers (including one woman).

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

*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 21 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:

- At a checkpoint east-south-east of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage east towards Markyne (non-government-controlled, 94km south of

⁷ 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.

- Donetsk), citing “ongoing training activities in the area”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the settlement, without providing any reason. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
 - At a checkpoint east of Shcherbak (non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage north towards Kovske (non-government-controlled, 91km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing training in the area”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
 - At a checkpoint near Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), without providing any reason. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
 - At a checkpoint near Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the settlement and south-east towards Mykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 70km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining and engineering works”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
 - At a checkpoint near Hryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 68km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the settlement, without providing any reason.

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.

Delay:

- While at a checkpoint near Novoazovsk, two visibly armed members of the armed formations only allowed the Mission passage eastward towards the border with the Russian Federation after about 20 minutes of waiting.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
19/7/2021	1	Towed gun (artillery or anti-tank gun, type undetermined)	Near Oleksandropil (43km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-variant)	Near a residential area of Bolotene (22km north-east of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
21/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-variant)	Near Vesela Hora (16km north of Luhansk)	Patrol

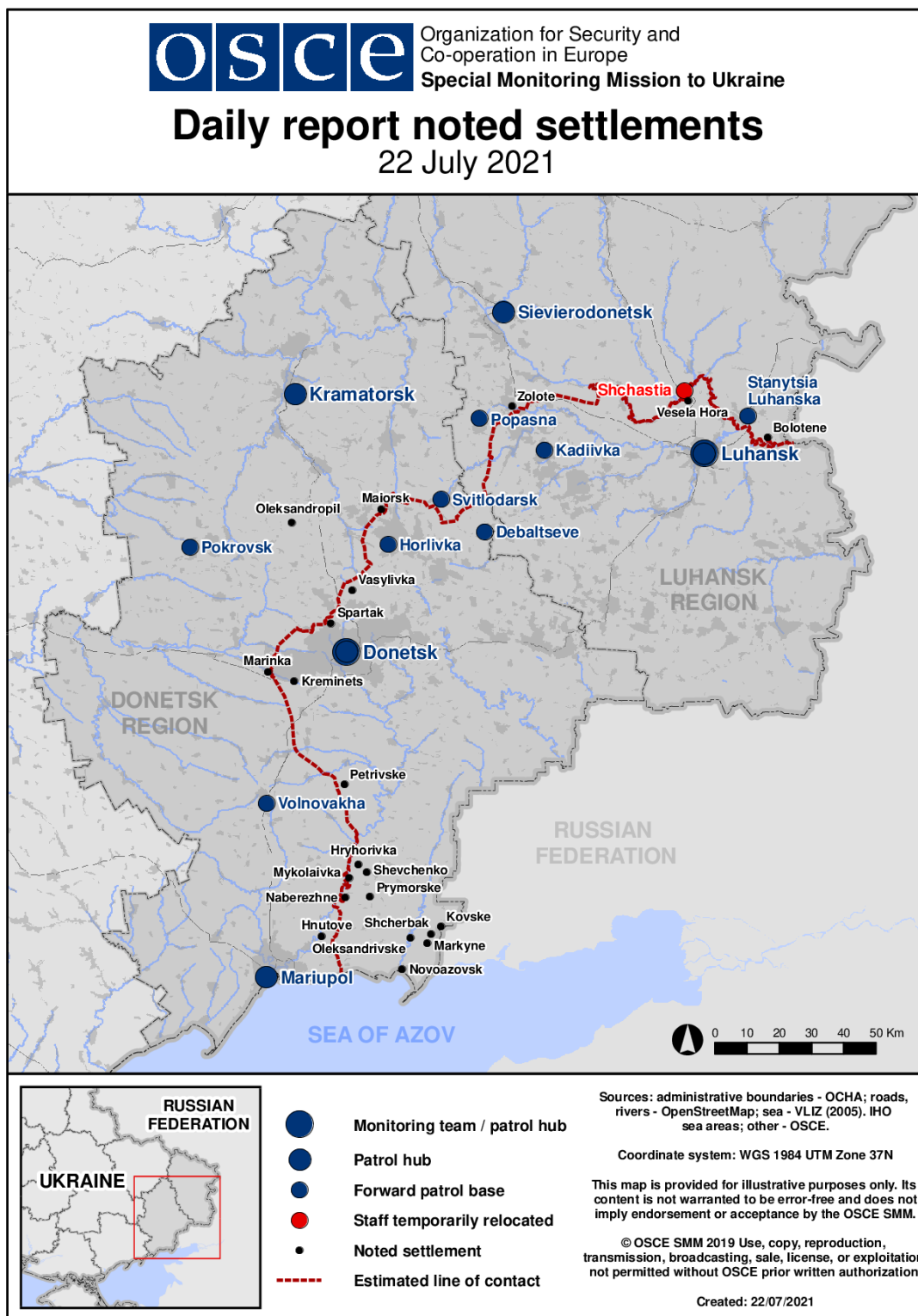
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 21 July 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Jul, 01:37
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Recorded	7	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 23:22
	2-3km E	Recorded	26	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 23:23
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 22:37
	3-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 22:39
	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 23:03
About 1km SE of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km N of Donetsk)	4-5km ENE	Heard	40	Burst		HMG	21-Jul, 11:12-11:18
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk)	3km ESE	Heard	9	Burst		Small arms	21-Jul, 09:50-10:03
	3km ESE	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	21-Jul, 10:12-10:15
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km ESE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 11:10-11:12
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Jul, 23:57
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Jul, 21:10-21:30
	3-5km SE	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Jul, 22:04-22:45
	5-10km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Jul, 23:01
About 3km north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	21-Jul, 14:07
N edge of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	6-8km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jul, 17:05

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.

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).