

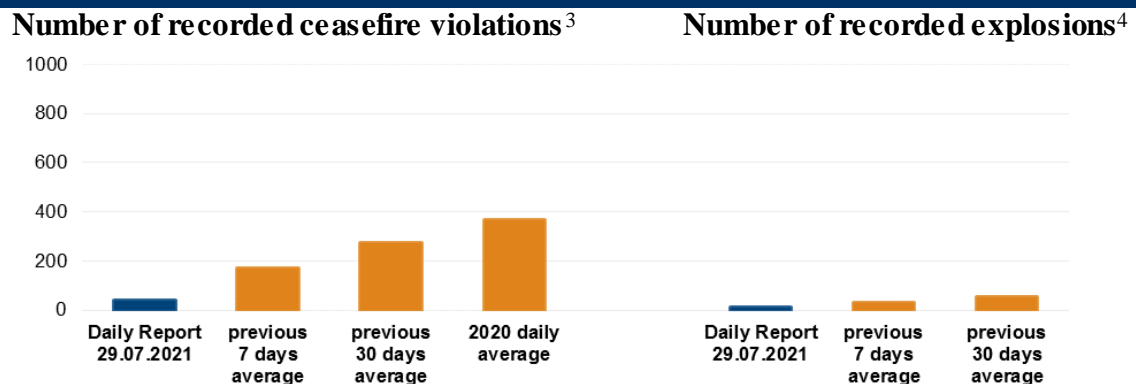
Daily Report 175/2021

29 July 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 28 ceasefire violations, including seven explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 149 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 14 ceasefire violations, including four explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 76 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission observed damage to a civilian property in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiy district, Donetsk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Syhnalne, Donetsk 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 and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points in Donetsk region and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission observed a religious procession in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at three checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 28 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, one of the SMM cameras in Zolote was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

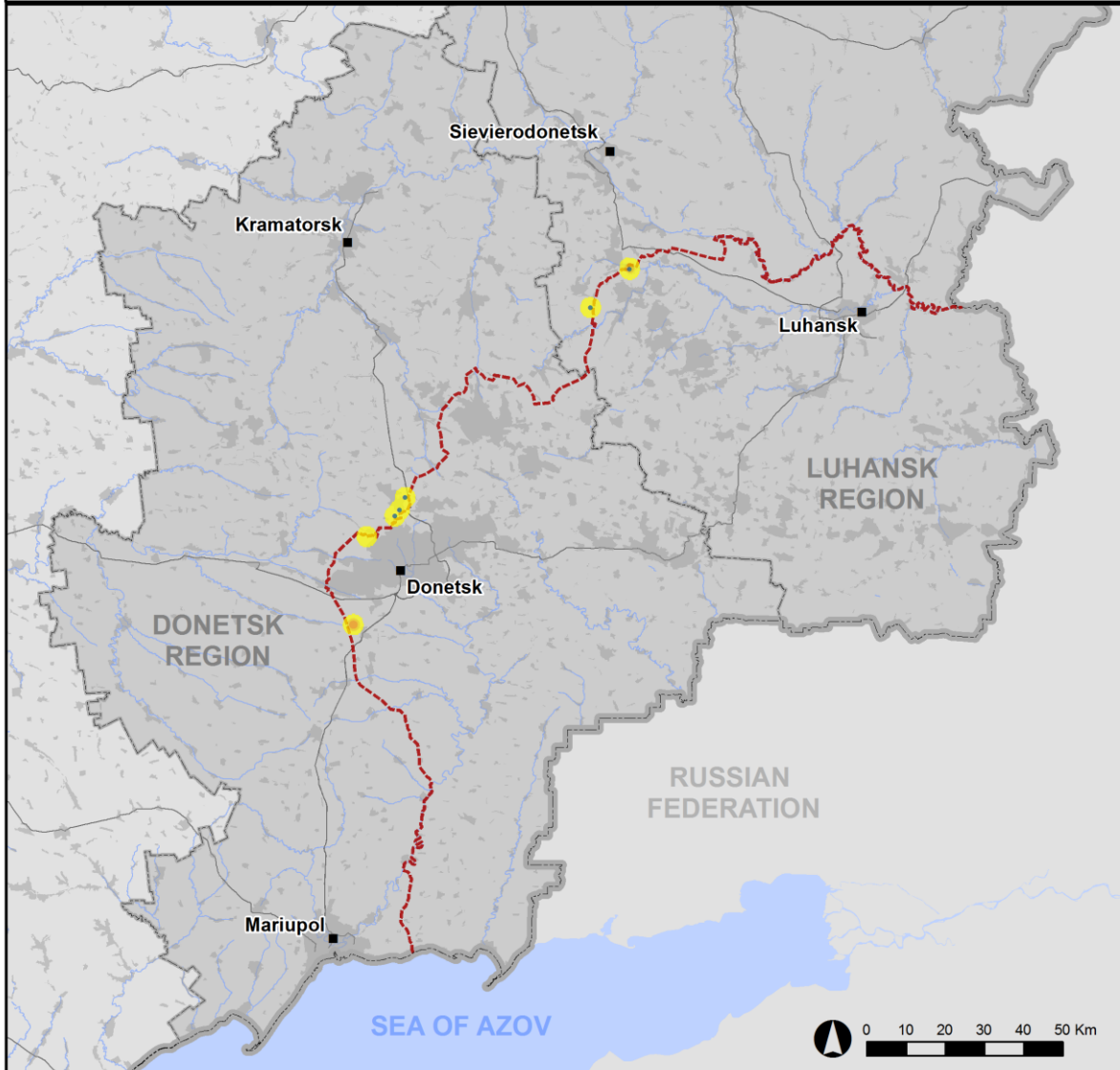
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

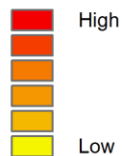


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 28 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: 29/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 28 ceasefire violations, including seven explosions (two outgoing and five undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area west-north-west of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and were assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 149 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 14 ceasefire violations, including four undetermined explosions. 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 76 ceasefire violations, all of which also occurred in areas near the disengagement area near Zolote.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the TCG 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 47,068 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,671 explosions, 8,926 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 172 illumination flares and at least 24,037 bursts and shots).

Damage to a civilian property in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiy district, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to a civilian property in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiy district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre).

On 27 July, at 20/4 Shestakova Street in the western part of Donetsk city's Petrovskiy district, the Mission saw a hole about 2m in diameter in a north-north-east facing brick wall of a single-storey house and broken tiles on its roof. About 4.5m north-north-east of the house, the SMM observed several small holes in a metal fence. The Mission assessed the damage as recent and caused by the direct impact of a probable mortar round from a north-north-westerly direction.

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Syhnalne, Donetsk region

While positioned about 600m north-north-east of Syhnalne to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 20 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 2km west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 2km west of the SMM's position. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area. (See below.)*

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 (15km north-east of Luhansk).

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 two locations near the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission heard two undetermined explosions and ten bursts and shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned on the eastern edge of road T-1316, about 300m north of the disengagement area, the Mission saw a truck and four workers (male in their forties to fifties) dismantling a fence separating vehicle traffic from a pedestrian path and removing some of the pavement.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The Mission 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 mortar in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw seven surface-to-air missile systems in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including at two railway stations. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

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

Presence of unexploded ordnance near Donetsk city, Donetsk region and of a mine hazard sign near Kriakivka, Luhansk region

On 27 July, on the ground floor of an abandoned building at the Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the Mission saw a piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO) for the first time, assessed as a 152mm artillery shell and assessed as not recently left there.

On 28 July, about 1km east-north-east of Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km north-west of Luhansk), on the southern side of a local road, the Mission observed for the first time a recent mine hazard sign (a red square with a white skull and crossbones and “Danger mines” written on it in Ukrainian).

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at two locations near the station, the SMM heard four

explosions (two outgoing and two undetermined), assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable maintenance of the phenol reservoir pipeline near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) were open, but did not see 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.

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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point⁶ near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 70 minutes, the Mission observed 18 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates and one with “LPR” plates), one covered cargo truck, two buses (with “DPR” plates, one with about 45 passengers and the other with about 60 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 30 people (13 women and 17 men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM also observed 18 cars (including six with “DPR” plates), one covered cargo truck (with “DPR” plates), four buses (with “DPR” plates, each with about 60 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 16 people (five women and seven men, in their thirties and forties, and four children) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about an hour, the SMM observed 27 cars (including 16 with “DPR” plates), 12 covered cargo trucks (including eight with “DPR” plates and one with “LPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, one with about 60 passengers and the other with about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 45 people (28 women and 14 men, mixed ages, and three children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed 23 cars (including 11 with “DPR” plates), 12 covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates), three buses (with “DPR” plates, each with about 60 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 27 people (14 women, 11 men, mixed ages, and two children) exiting Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Tarany (74km east of Donetsk), Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk), Oleksiivske (74km east of Donetsk), Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), Khmelnytskyi (69km south of Luhansk) and Krynychne (formerly Biriukove, 75km south-east of Luhansk) and observed no change in the security situation.

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.

The Mission observed a religious procession in Kyiv

The Mission observed a peaceful religious service in St Michael's Golden Domed Monastery, followed by a procession of about 1,200 people (over a half of whom were women, of mixed ages) to Saint Volodymyr's Hill. The service and procession included about 350 members of the clergy and were organized by the Orthodox Church of Ukraine on the occasion of the 1033rd anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan Rus. The Mission also saw about 220 law enforcement officers in the vicinity.

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, 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 26 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 near Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage north towards Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk) and south towards Lukove (non-government-controlled, 72km south of Donetsk), citing “de-mining activities in the area and the SMM's safety”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint near Nova Marivka, two members of the armed formations, one of them visibly armed, denied the SMM passage south towards Shevchenko, citing “de-mining activities in the area and the SMM's safety”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint near Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south-west towards the settlement, citing “ongoing de-mining and engineering works in the area”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

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:⁷

- While positioned about 600m north-north-east of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 20 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk) and during one flight over areas near Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
28/7/2021	1	Mortar (82mm, type undetermined)	Near Berdianske (102km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/7/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K37)	Near Novooleksandrivka (36km north-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3		At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
28/7/2021	3		At a railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
28/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Voitove (33km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

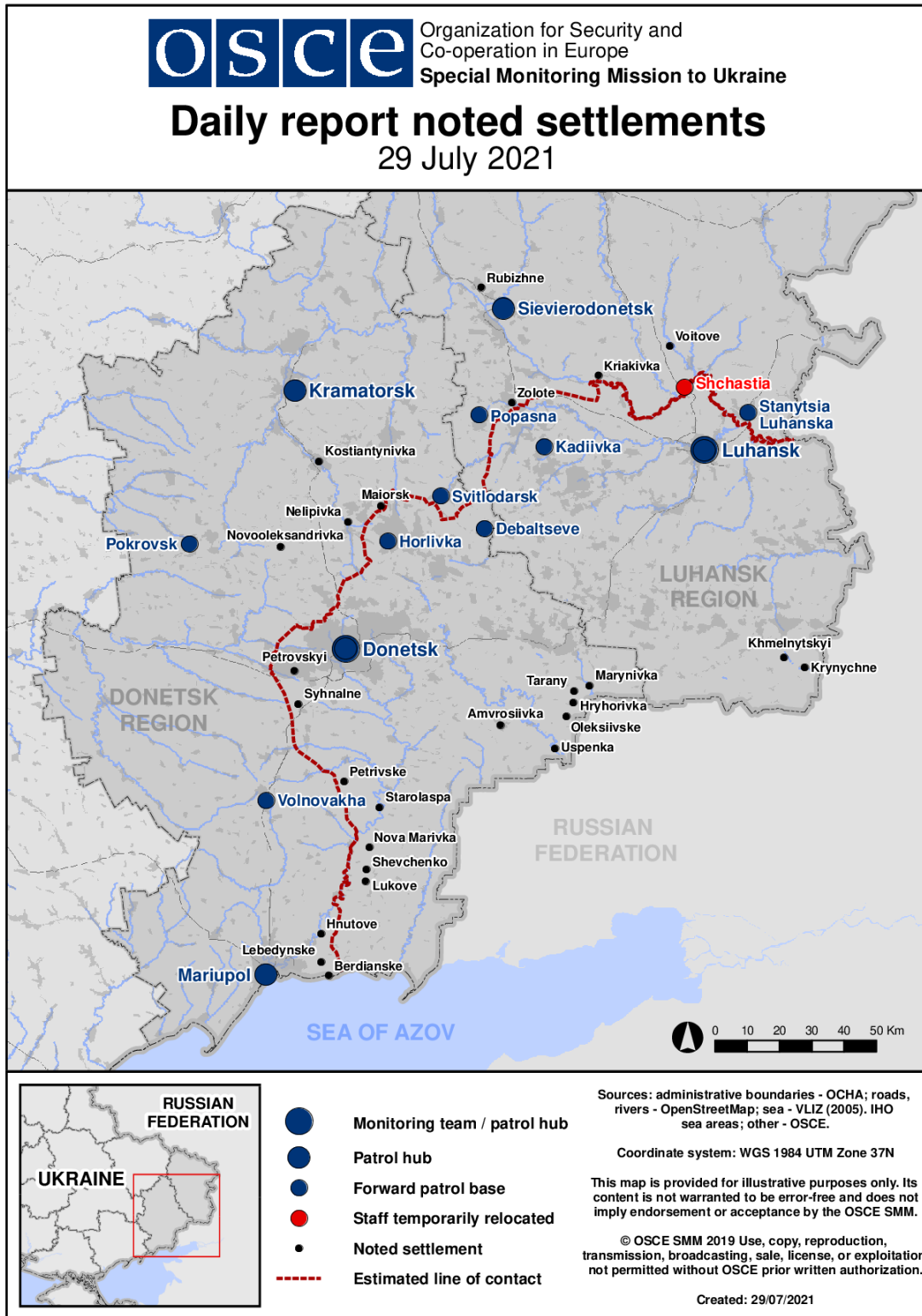
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 28 July 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km W	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	27-Jul, 23:30
SE part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3km SSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Jul, 10:55-11:25
	1-1.5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	28-Jul, 11:00
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Jul, 11:00
About 600m NNE of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2km W	Heard	20	Burst		Small arms	28-Jul, 13:03
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	28-Jul, 08:10
	10-12km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Jul, 17:04
Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-2km N	Heard	7	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	28-Jul, 17:40-17:45
	1-2km N	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	28-Jul, 17:40-17:45

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).