



Daily Report 178/2021

2 August 2021¹

Summary

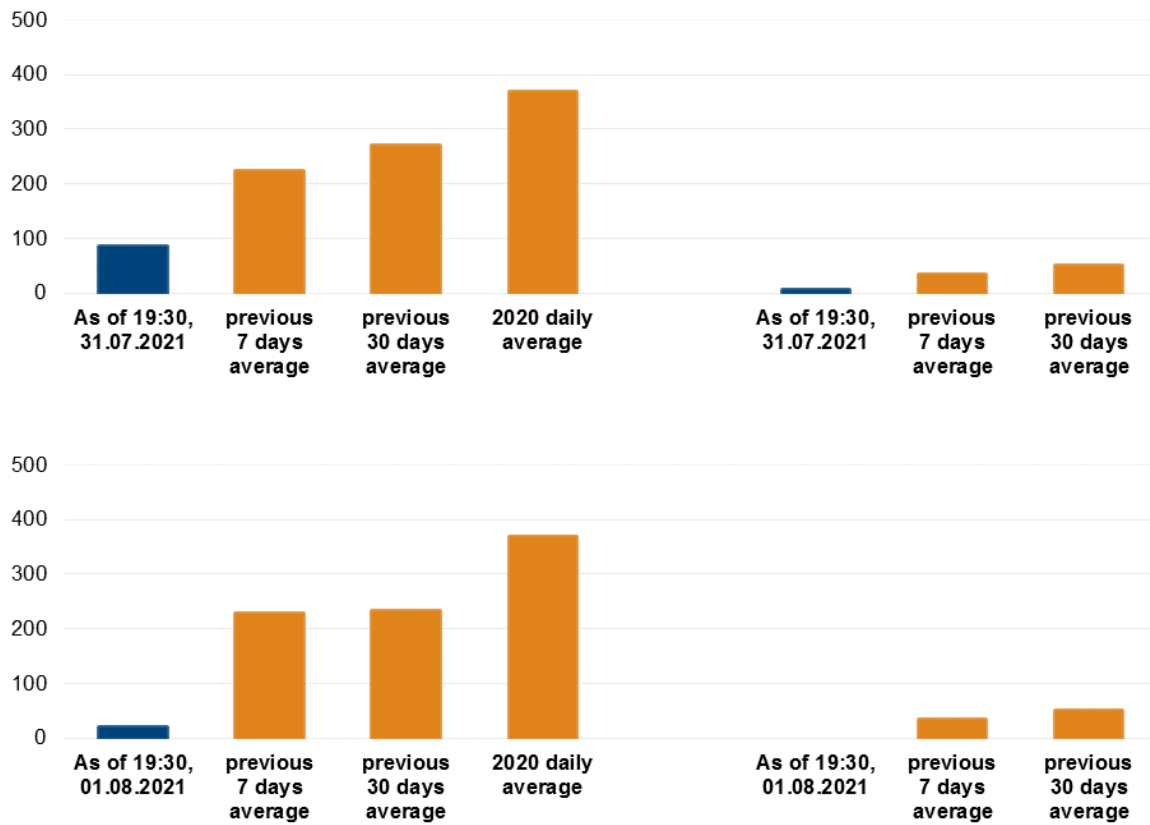
- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 30 July and 1 August, the SMM recorded 66 ceasefire violations, including five explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 408 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 30 July and 1 August, the Mission recorded 39 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 17 ceasefire violations in the region.
- On 31 July, small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) during two separate flights near non-government-controlled Lebiazhe, Donetsk region.*
- On 31 July, a member of the armed formations refused the Mission to fly a mini-UAV near Staromykhailivka and threatened to shoot it down if the SMM tried.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk region and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation.
- The Mission observed no change in the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near non-government-controlled Staromykhailivka in Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.*

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

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Starting from the early morning of 1 August 2021, the SMM camera in Avdiivka has been not operational.

³ Including explosions.

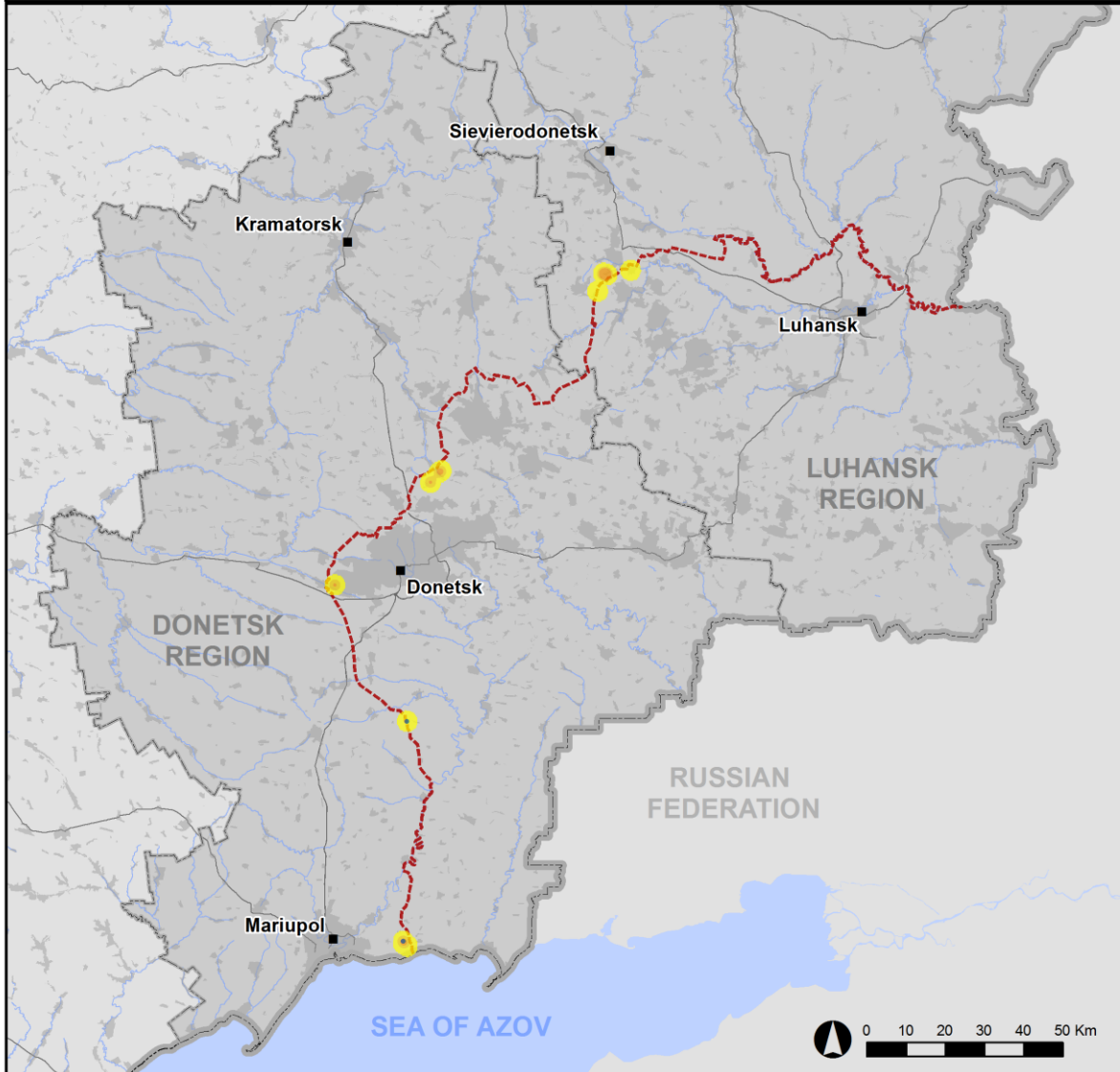
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

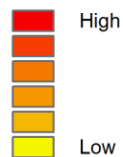


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 31 July - 1 August 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: 02/08/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 30 July and 1 August, the SMM recorded 66 ceasefire violations, including five undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north and south-west of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) during the day on 31 July, and north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), on the night of 30-31 July. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 408 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 30 July and 1 August, the SMM recorded 39 ceasefire violations. All ceasefire violations occurred in areas east and south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below) during the day on 31 July. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 17 ceasefire violations, most of which also occurred close to the same disengagement area.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group (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 47,796 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,736 explosions, 9,073 projectiles in flight, 263 muzzle flashes, 178 illumination flares and at least 24,546 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle during two separate flights near Lebiazhe, Donetsk region

On 31 July, while positioned about 3km west-north-west of Lebiazhe to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard ten bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1-1.5km north, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1km north-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV. While conducting a second mini-UAV flight from the same location, the SMM heard eight bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 0.5-1.5km north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1km north-west of the Mission's position (the same location as above). The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.*

A member of the armed formations threatened to shoot down one of the SMM's mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region

At 10:00 on 31 July, an SMM patrol arrived at a checkpoint in the eastern part of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight to follow up on allegations of a damaged civilian property in the area. A member of the armed formations told the patrol that he had no approval to let the Mission conduct the flight and that if it was to conduct it, the UAV would be shot down. The SMM left the area.

At 12:06, the Mission returned to the same checkpoint, where the same member of the armed formations said that he had now received approval for the flight. The SMM conducted the UAV flight from a location near the checkpoint, after which it left the area. (See below and [SMM Spot Report 19/2021](#).)*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 31 July and 1 August, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw 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 31 July, while positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission heard 38 bursts and shots of small-arms fire. During the day on 1 August, while positioned on the south-western edge of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard one shot of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 0.7-1km north-north-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 31 July and 1 August, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

On the evening of 30 July, the SMM camera about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 1-3km east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

On 31 July and 1 August, while positioned near the disengagement area, 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 Mission saw two armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

On 31 July and 1 August, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, on 31 July and 1 August, 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.

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

On both days, 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. On both days, while at the EECF near Zolote, the Mission saw workers with heavy equipment clearing vegetation nearby.

Border areas outside government control

On 31 July, while at a border crossing point⁶ near Marynivka (non-government-controlled, 78km east of Donetsk) for about 50 minutes, the Mission observed six cars (including three with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates) and a bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it observed 13 cars (including nine with “DPR” plates), a covered cargo truck (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, both carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and four pedestrians (a woman and a man in their forties and two children, about two and six years old) travelling in the opposite direction.

On 1 August, while at the same border crossing point for about 30 minutes, the Mission observed seven cars (including five with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), four mini-vans (with “DPR” plates”, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and eight pedestrians (a woman and five men, mixed ages and two girls, six and eight years old) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it observed ten cars (including five with “DPR” plates), five covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates) and seven pedestrians (a woman, five men and a teenager) travelling in the opposite direction.

On 31 July, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (non-government-controlled, 73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 50 minutes, the SMM observed 31 cars (including 15 with “DPR” plates), two buses (including one with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 73 pedestrians (39 women, 29 men, mixed ages and five children of mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it observed six cars (including four with “DPR” plates), a bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 14 pedestrians (nine women and five men, in their twenties and fifties) travelling in the opposite direction.

On 1 August, while at the same border crossing point for about 60 minutes, the SMM observed 12 cars (including nine with “DPR” plates), four buses (with “DPR” plates, all carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 39 pedestrians (19 women, 12 men and eight children of mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission saw 20 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates), seven covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates), a mini-van (carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), two buses (with “DPR” plates, both carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 63 pedestrians (33 women, 24 men and six children of mixed genders and ages) travelling in the opposite direction.

On 31 July and 1 August, the SMM 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), Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk), Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk), Amvrosiivka (56km

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.

south-east of Donetsk), Stepanivka (76km east of Donetsk) and Petrivske (65km east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

Between 30 July and 1 August, the SMM monitored areas of east and south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson), Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson) and Novotroitske (154km east of Kherson), as well as areas along the coast of the Azov Sea near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson), and areas along the North Crimean canal. While monitoring these areas, the Mission observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, 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, 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 31 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.

Denial:

- On 31 July, while at a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission to conduct a pre-announced mini-UAV flight to follow up on allegations of damage to a civilian property (see above). 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, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other obstacles.

Conditional access:

- On 1 August, at the same checkpoint near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission to proceed into the settlement only after about 30 minutes and escorted by one member of the

armed formations. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 31 July, while positioned near Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard in total 18 bursts of small arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, during two separate flights. (See above.)
- On the same day, SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over areas near non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) and one flight over areas near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk).
- On 1 August, SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over areas near Troitske (government-controlled, 30km north of Donetsk), one flight over areas near Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and two separate flights over areas near Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk).

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.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
30/7/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a compound near Sartana (91 km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
31/7/2021	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area of Mariupol (102km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

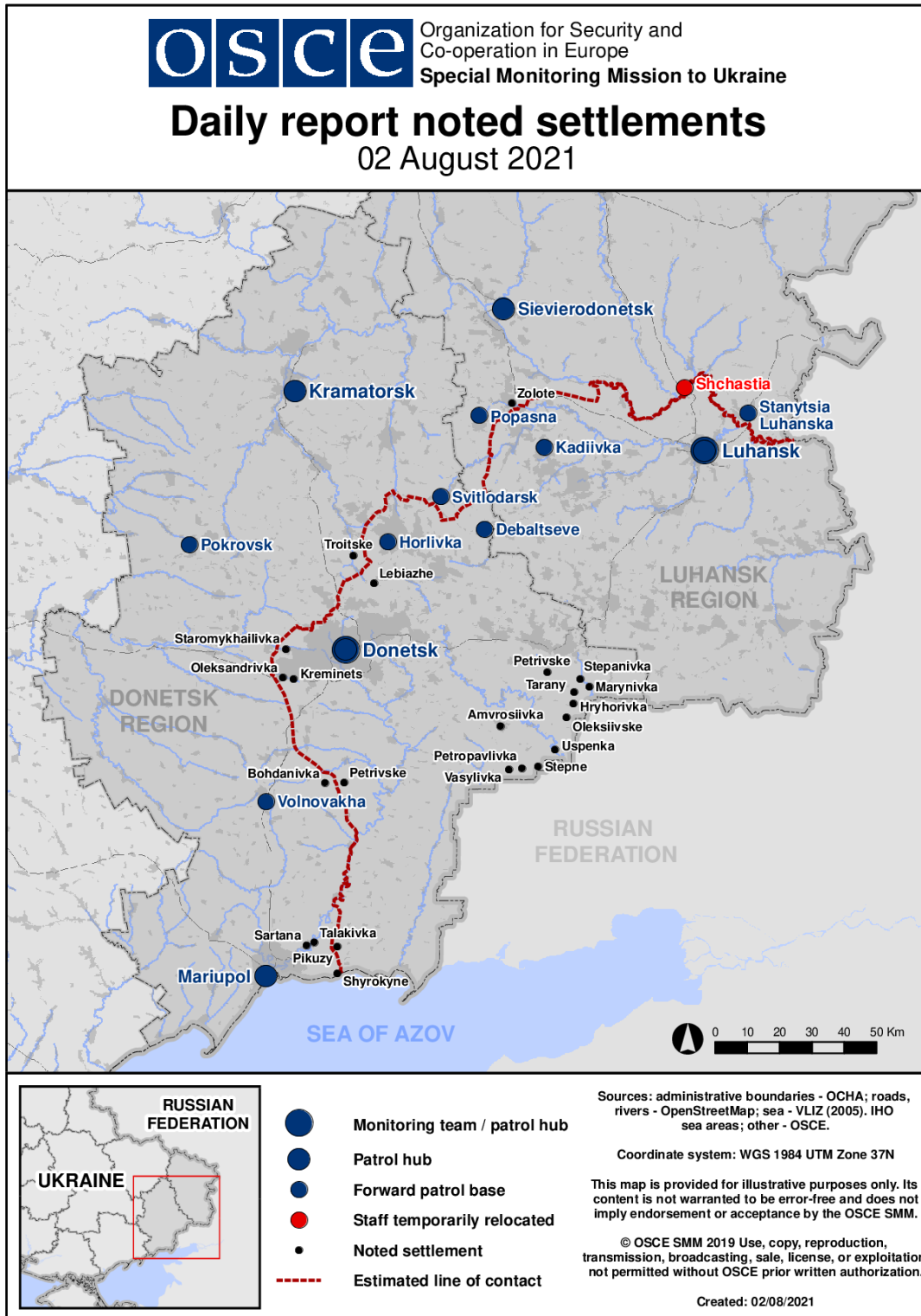
⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 1 August 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)		30-Jul, 22:26
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined		30-Jul, 22:08
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined		30-Jul, 22:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined		30-Jul, 22:15
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash			30-Jul, 22:20
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E		30-Jul, 22:20
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight		30-Jul, 22:21
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Illumination flare	In vertical flight		30-Jul, 23:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight		30-Jul, 23:21
Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	1-2km NE	Heard	14	Burst		Small arms	31-Jul, 10:30-10:50
	1-1.5km N	Heard	9	Burst		Small arms	31-Jul, 10:45
About 3km WNW of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	1-1.5km N	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	31-Jul, 10:45
	0.5-1.5km NW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	31-Jul, 10:50
	0.5-1.5km NW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	31-Jul, 10:50
About 2km NE of Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km W of Luhansk)	2-3km WSW	Heard	20	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	31-Jul, 10:40-10:45
About 2km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	3-4km NNE	Heard	16	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	31-Jul, 10:42-10:45
	3-4km NNE	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	31-Jul, 10:42-10:45
	1-2km SW	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	31-Jul, 10:56
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Recorded	2	Burst	SE to NW		31-Jul, 23:01
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SE to NW		1-Aug, 02:26
About 3km NNW of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk)	200-300m SSW	Heard	14	Shot		Small arms	1-Aug, 14:09
SW edge of Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	0.7-1km NNE	Heard	1	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	1-Aug, 08:38

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).