

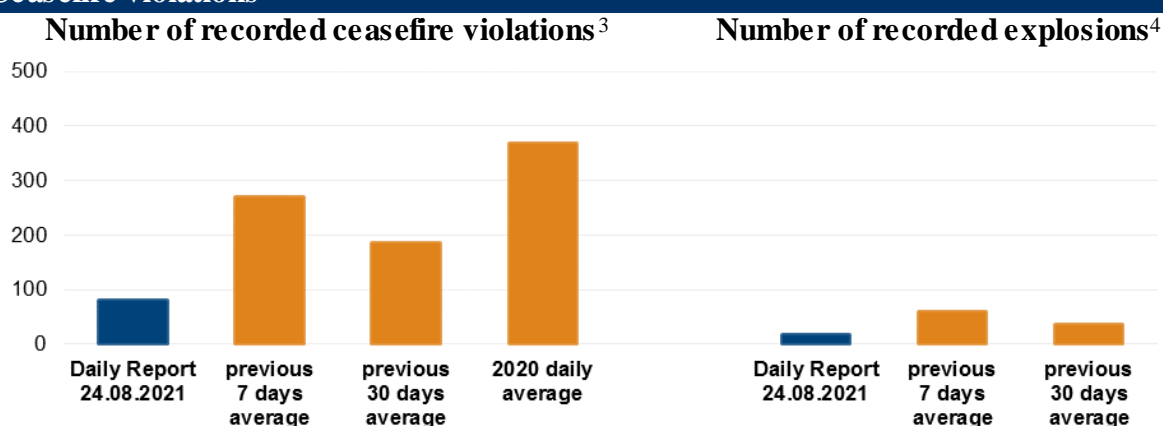
Daily Report 197/2021

24 August 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 61 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 112 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations, including two explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on damage to an apartment in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region.
- 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 and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored gatherings in Kyiv.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 23 August 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.

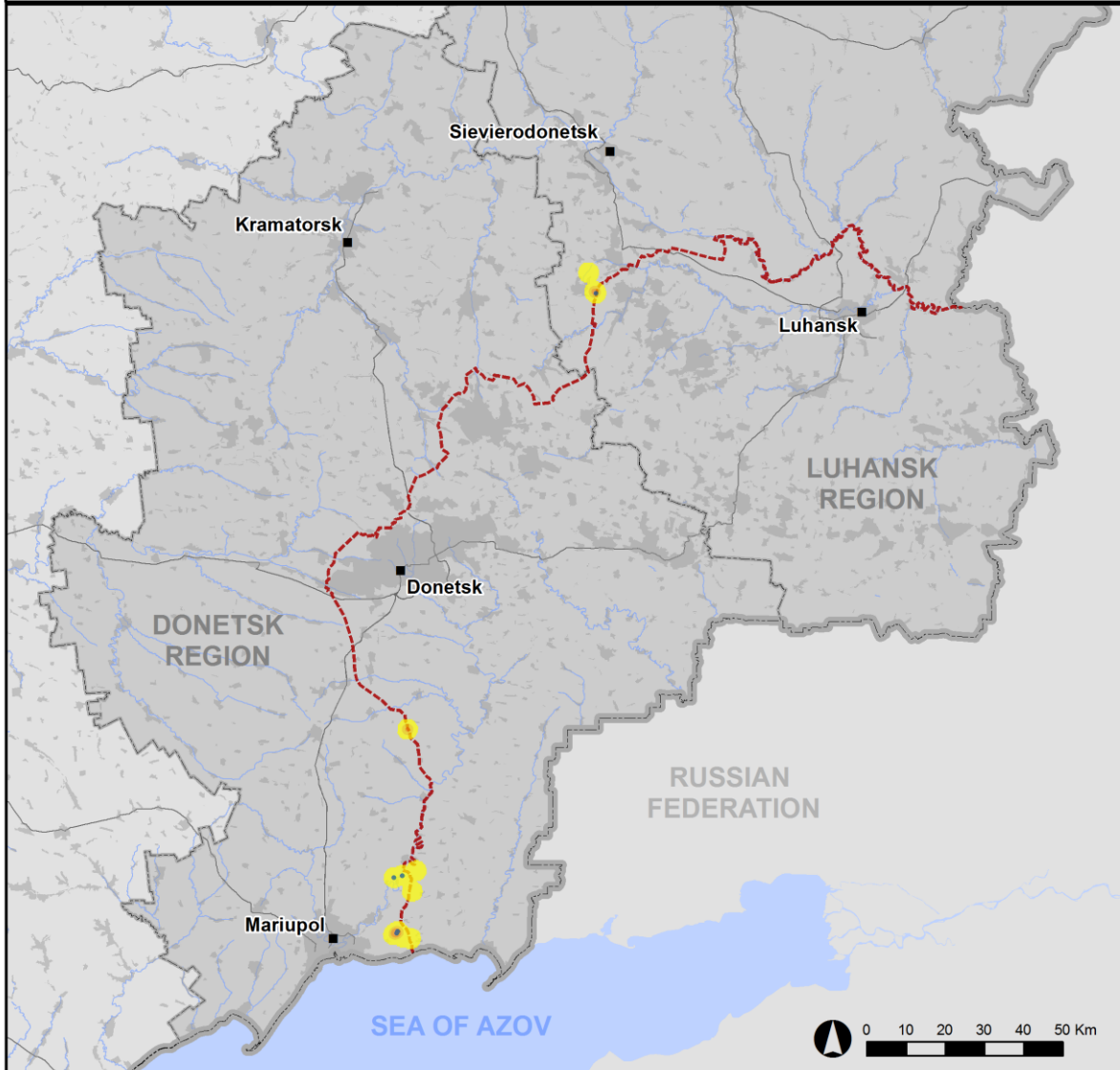
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

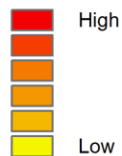


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 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: 24/08/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 61 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions (one impact, one outgoing, one airburst and 13 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below) and at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 112 ceasefire violations, the majority of which also occurred near the aforementioned disengagement area and north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred at east-north-easterly and south-easterly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded no 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 51,764 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 14,601 explosions, 10,182 projectiles in flight, 267 muzzle flashes, 199 illumination flares and at least 26,515 bursts and shots).

Damage to apartment in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region

The Mission followed up on reports of damage to an inhabited apartment on the western edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

On 22 August, at 8 Lizy Chaikinoi Street, in an inhabited apartment on the first floor of a two-storey building, the SMM observed a hole each in the inner and outer panes of a north-north-east facing double-pane bedroom window and shards of glass between the panes. The SMM assessed the damage as recent and caused by small-arms fire.

A woman (in her thirties), who introduced herself as the apartment's owner, told the SMM that, on the evening of 17 August, when returning home, she had seen the damage to her bedroom window and had found a bullet on the floor near the window.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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).

On 22 August, about 75m north-east of the northern edge of **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), on the north-western edge of the road leading north-east towards Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw that a previously observed structure made of concrete blocks had been reinforced with cement. (For previous observations in this area, see [SMM Daily Report of 23 August 2021](#).)

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 the same day, outside the disengagement area, about 300m east-north-east of its south-eastern corner and about 20m south of the road leading to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed two men (in their thirties and forties) wearing military-style clothing digging holes in the ground.

On 23 August, inside the disengagement area, about 350m north of its southern edge and 12m west of road T-1316, the SMM observed a hole in the ground (a rectangle, about 1x1.5m, not previously reported) with wooden planks inserted on two sides for support. The Mission observed dug up earth next to the hole.

On the same day, 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).

On the night of 22-23 August, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 15 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 2-4km south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

During the day on 23 August, while positioned at three locations 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw 12 multiple launch rocket systems in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, all in a training area and a compound.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 35 tanks and 21 howitzers/mortars in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, all in two training areas. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

In government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the SMM saw two armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns, including in and near residential areas. In non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Mission saw 16 armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun, including in residential areas, in a compound, and in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014. (For further information, see the table below.)

On 22 August, about 2km west-north-west of Nadarivka (non-government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk), in positions of the armed formations, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person, assessed as a member of the armed formations, aiming a rifle at the UAV.

Presence of anti-tank mines near Vodiane and in Pikuzy, Donetsk region

On 22 August, about 2km north of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted 23 previously reported anti-tank mines laid across road T-0519, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 1 June 2021](#).)

On the same day, in a residential area in the western part of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted 18 [previously reported](#) anti-tank mines laid across road T-0519, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

SMM facilitation of the operation and repairs 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 monitored the adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to power lines near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations was open, with no people queuing in either direction.

The Mission 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

On 17 August, aerial imagery available to the Mission revealed the presence of seven probable military-type trucks in a compound near a residential area of Markyne (non-government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), about 4km west of the border with the Russian Federation.

The SMM monitored gatherings in Kyiv

On 23 August, in Mariiivskyi Park, the Mission observed a gathering of approximately 150 people (mainly women, mixed ages), some of whom were holding banners in support of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The SMM saw 25 law enforcement officers nearby and observed a calm situation.

On the same day, at 16 Parkova Street, the Mission saw a gathering of about 30 people (mixed genders, in their twenties to forties), some of whom were holding English language banners in support of a television broadcaster and expressing criticisms of legal proceedings to revoke its license. The SMM observed about 90 law enforcement officers nearby and a calm situation.

On the same day, in front of the Russian Embassy at 27 Povitroflotskyi Avenue, the Mission saw a gathering of nine men and three women (mixed ages), as well as 30 media representatives (about 15 men and about 15 women, mixed ages), and about 150 Ukrainian flags placed in front of the embassy building, reportedly aimed at raising awareness of the deaths of people who lost their lives in conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as 2014 events on the Crimean Peninsula. The SMM saw ten law enforcement officers nearby and observed a calm situation.

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 13 August 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:

- At a checkpoint near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), en route to the location of a follow-up to an alleged civilian casualty case, two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing engineering works in the area”.
- At a checkpoint near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Verkhnoшыrokivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing de-mining activities in the area” and referring to the need for coordination with their superior.

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:⁶

- SMM mid-range UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Netailove (government-controlled, 22km north-west of Donetsk) and one flight over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Lebedynske and one flight over areas near Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

⁶ 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 weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/8/2021	3	Multiple launch rocket system (type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery
	9	Probable multiple launch rocket system (type undetermined)	In a compound near Sadovyi (57km south-west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/8/2021	14	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk	Aerial imagery
	10	Self-propelled howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		
	11	Towed howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		
18/8/2021	21	Tank (type undetermined, including two probable)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	

Other weapons⁷

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/8/2021	17	Self-propelled howitzer/mortar (type undetermined, including 13 probable)	In a training area near Ternove	Aerial imagery

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/8/2021	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	In a residential area near Orlivske (82km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Hnutove (90km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
23/8/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near a residential area of Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	SMM camera in Stanytsia Luhanska
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
21/8/2021	8	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in a residential area of Kalynove (60km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
23/8/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area of Brianka (46km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Kamianka (24km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM variant)	Near Starobesheve (32km south-east of Donetsk)	
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Novomykhailivka (52km south of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014.	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Marianivka (13km south of Donetsk)	

⁷ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

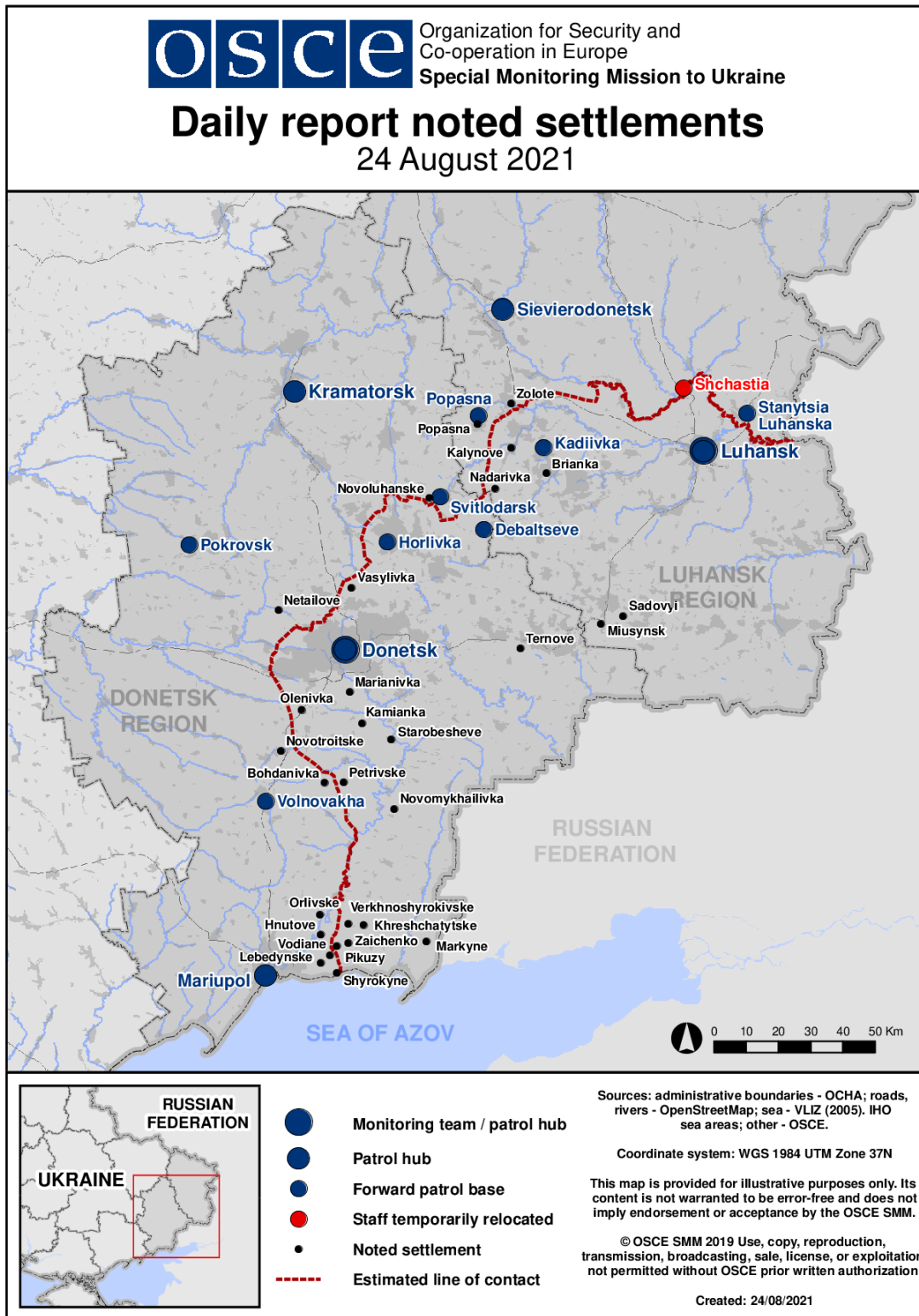
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 23 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)	2-4km SE	Recorded	8	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	22-Aug, 23:46
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	23-Aug, 02:08
	2-4km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	23-Aug, 03:09
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	6	Projectile	ENE to WSW	N/K	23-Aug, 01:37
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	23-Aug, 02:54
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Aug, 20:43
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	22-Aug, 22:27
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	22-Aug, 22:28
About 2.5km SSE of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	23-Aug, 09:40
	3-5km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 10:10
	3-5km E	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 10:38-10:41
	3-5km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 11:01
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Heard	10	Burst		Small arms	23-Aug, 09:59
About 1km SSW of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 10:39-10:40
About 2km ENE of Chemenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	5-6km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	Mortar (120mm)	23-Aug, 10:56-10:58
	4-5km N	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	23-Aug, 10:56-10:58
	5-6km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	Mortar (120mm)	23-Aug, 10:56-10:58
	4-5km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	Mortar (120mm)	23-Aug, 10:56-10:58
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Aug, 20:55-20:56
	2-3km ENE	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	22-Aug, 20:58-21:00
	5-6km SE	Heard	15	Burst		HMG	22-Aug, 21:22-21:25

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).