

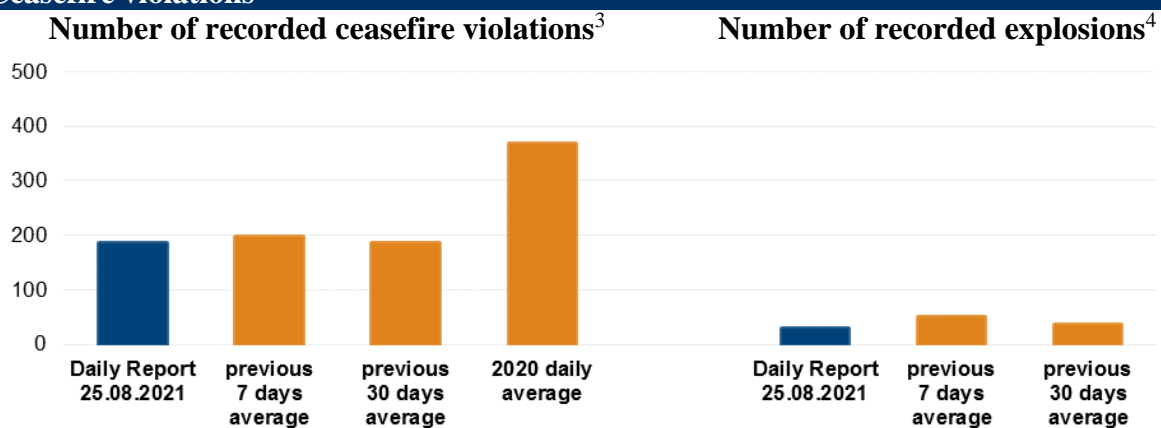
Daily Report 198/2021

25 August 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 125 ceasefire violations, including 29 undetermined explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 61 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 61 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at four SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near non-government-controlled Vesele, Oleksandrivka, Syhnalne and Donetsk city's Leninskyi district, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske and outside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- 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 observed National Flag Day and Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in Donetsk, Kherson, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Kyiv regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 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.

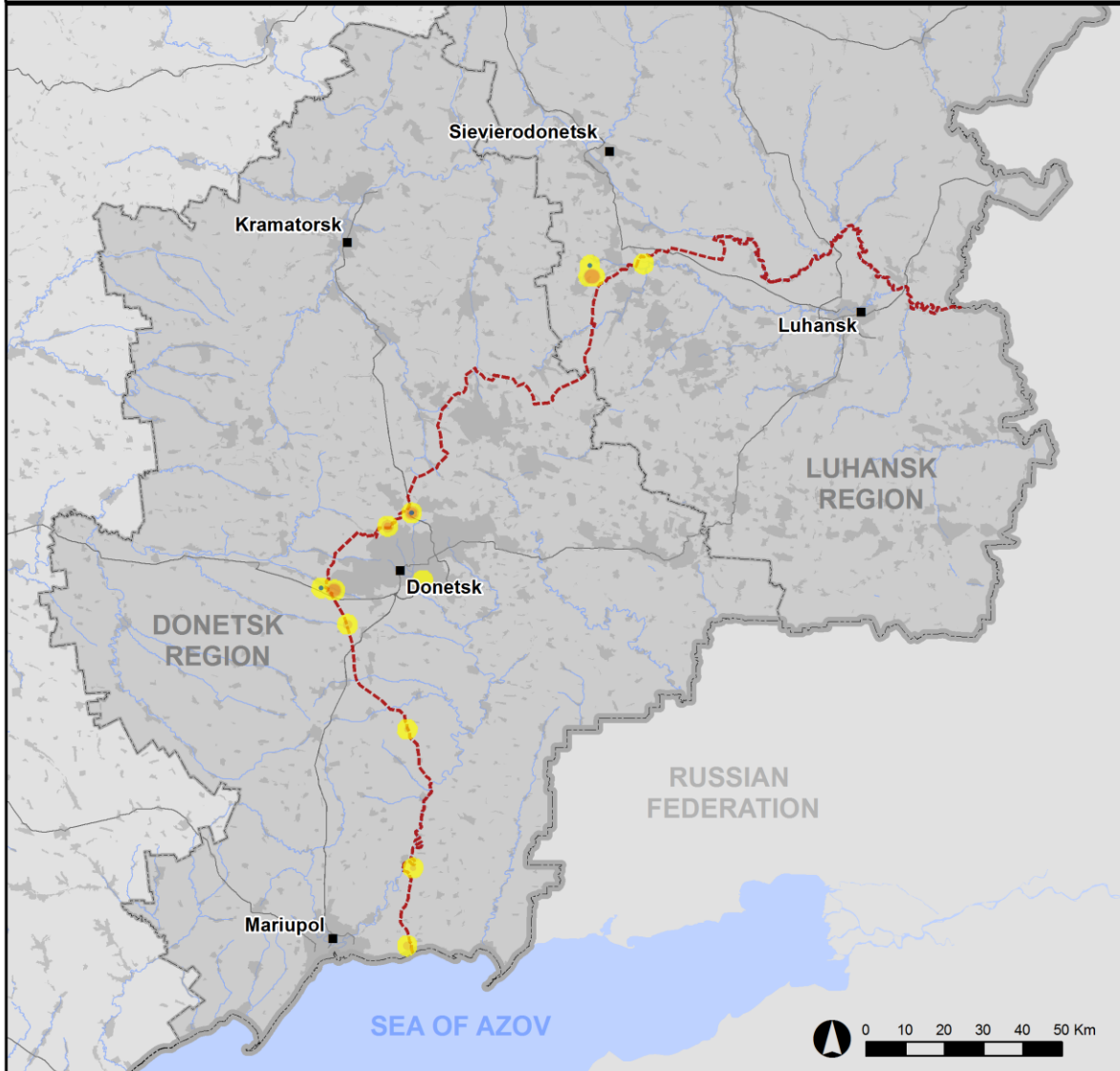
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

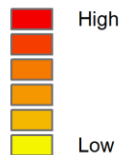


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 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: 25/08/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 125 ceasefire violations, including 29 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at westerly directions of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) and in an area south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 61 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 61 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-east and west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding 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 51,950 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 14,631 explosions, 10,208 projectiles in flight, 267 muzzle flashes, 199 illumination flares and at least 26,645 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at four SMM mini-UAVs near non-government-controlled Vesele, Oleksandrivka, Syhnalne and Donetsk city's Leninskyi district, Donetsk region

While positioned on the north-eastern edge of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard 18 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km north of the SMM's location, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over positions of the armed formations. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

While positioned on the north-western edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 15 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1.5km west of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. While the UAV was flying back towards its launch location, the Mission heard 22 bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 1km west of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over positions of the armed formations. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

While positioned on the northern edge of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 11 bursts and shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 3.5km west of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

While positioned about 4km east-south-east of Donetsk city's Leninskyi district (non-government-controlled) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 500m north-north-west of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

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 three 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 23 August, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 3-5km east. During the day on 24 August, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area, the SMM heard 41 bursts of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 23 August, about 75m north-east of the northern edge of the disengagement area, on the north-western edge of the road leading north-east towards Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the Mission observed three soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces placing logs onto the roof of a previously observed structure made of concrete blocks. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 August 2021](#).)

On 23 August, inside the disengagement area, about 350m north of its southern edge and 12m west of road T-1316, the SMM observed two members of the armed formations placing wooden pallets around a previously observed hole in the ground. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 24 August 2021](#).)

On 24 August, 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 Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 31 July 2021](#).)

On the evening of 23 August, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded eight 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 24 August, while positioned at two 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.

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 withdrawn

At a heavy weapons holding area in government-controlled area of Luhansk region
24 August

The SMM noted that six towed howitzers (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were present compared to the previous visit on 27 April 2021, when the Mission saw that four towed howitzers (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were present.

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

The SMM saw 17 armoured combat vehicles on both side of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in residential areas, as well as a probable weapon locating radar in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near non-government-controlled Sakhanka, Donetsk region

On 23 August, about 2km south-south-west of the southern edge of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted nine previously reported anti-tank mines laid across road M-14, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 30 April 2021](#).)

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).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (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.

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

While at a border crossing point⁶ near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 60 minutes, the Mission observed 20 cars (including 12 with “DPR” plates), 18 covered cargo trucks (including seven with “DPR” plates and two with “LPR” plates), one bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 45 people (19 women and 23 men of mixed ages, a boy, aged five and two girls, aged 12) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it observed 28 cars (including 18 with “DPR” plates), 18 covered cargo trucks (including four with “DPR” plates), three buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders

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.

and ages), and eight people (two women and four men of mixed ages, and two girls, aged ten) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianiivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 30 minutes, the Mission did not observe any traffic in either direction.

The Mission also monitored border areas near Russian Federation near Oleksiivske (74km east of Donetsk), Manych (76km east of Donetsk), Vilkhivchyk (formerly Novopetrivske, 78km east of Donetsk), and Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk), and observed a calm situation.

National Flag Day and Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in Donetsk, Kherson, Lviv, Chernivtsi and Kyiv regions

On 23 and 24 August, the SMM monitored gatherings on the occasion of National Flag Day and Independence Day of Ukraine in Kramatorsk (government-controlled, 83km north of Donetsk), Memryk (government-controlled, 33km north-west of Donetsk), Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk), Kherson, Mykolaiv (58km north-west of Kherson), Lviv, Chernivtsi, Khmelnytskyi (147km north-east of Chernivtsi), Kamianets-Podilskyi (65km north-east of Chernivtsi) and Kyiv.

In Kramatorsk, Memryk and Mariupol, the Mission observed in total about 1,500 participants (mixed genders and ages). In Kherson and Mykolaiv, the SMM saw in total about 1,500 participants (mixed genders and ages), and in Lviv, it saw about 3,000 participants (mixed genders and ages). In Chernivtsi, Khmelnytskyi and Kamianets-Podilskyi, the Mission observed about 1,000 participants (mixed genders and ages) in total. In central Kyiv, the SMM saw about 250,000 people (mixed genders and ages), of which about 50,000 participated in a march. During all events, the Mission observed a calm situation.

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

***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 Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage west towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), alleging that “the area is

being mined to protect military-type positions from possible infiltration”.

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:

- While positioned on the north-eastern edge of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 18 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. (See above.)
- On two occasions, while positioned on the north-western edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard in total 37 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, in both instances assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. (See above.)
- While positioned on the northern edge of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 11 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. (See above.)
- While positioned about 4km east-south-east of Donetsk city’s Leninskyi district (non-government-controlled) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard four shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. (See above.)

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/8/2021	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable weapon locating radar (AN/TPQ-48)		
23/8/2021	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-type)	Near Muratove (51km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
24/8/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/8/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
24/8/2021	6	Armoured personnel carrier (two BTR-60, one BTR-70 and three MT-LB)	In a residential area of Horlivka (39km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol

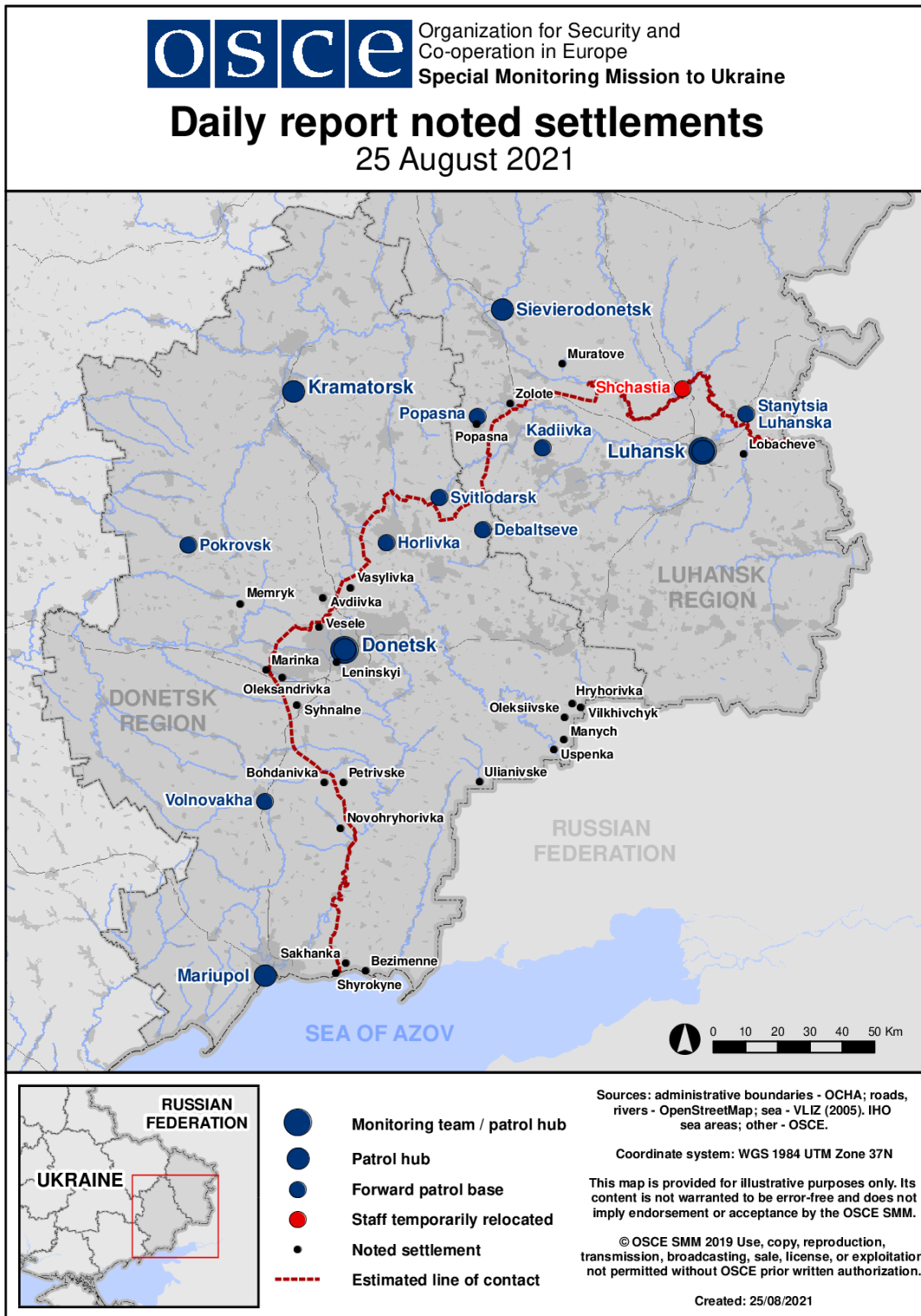
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 August 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-6km ESE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:20
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:21
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:31
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:32
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:33
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:35
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:44
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:47
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 20:48
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	23-Aug, 21:26
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-Aug, 00:00
	2-4km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-Aug, 01:04
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Aug, 01:02
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Aug, 00:27
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	6	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Aug, 00:28
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Aug, 00:29
NE part of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	1.5km N	Heard	18	Shot		Small-arms	24-Aug, 09:51
NW edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1.5km W	Heard	15	Burst		Small-arms	24-Aug, 11:56-11:57
	1km W	Heard	22	Shots and bursts		Small-arms	24-Aug, 11:57-11:58
N edge of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3.5km W	Heard	8	Shot		Small-arms	24-Aug, 13:37
	3.5km W	Heard	3	Burst		Small-arms	24-Aug, 13:37
About 4km ESE of Donetsk city's Leninskyi district (non-government-controlled, 4km S of Donetsk)	500m NNW	Heard	4	Shot		Small-arms	24-Aug, 15:38
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	23-Aug, 21:19-21:35
	2-4km E	Heard	7	Shot		Small-arms	23-Aug, 21:19-21:35
	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Aug, 21:33-21:35
	2-5km E	Heard	37	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	24-Aug, 12:26-12:39
	2-3km E	Heard	9	Burst		Small-arms	24-Aug, 12:26-12:39
About 1km S of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km N	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small-arms	24-Aug, 17:22-17:32

⁸ 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 regions⁹



⁹ 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).