

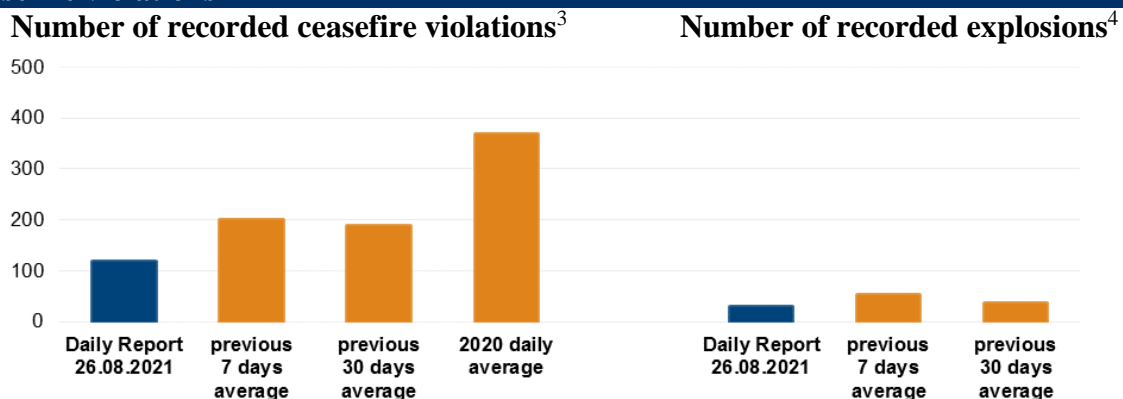
Daily Report 199/2021

26 August 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 12 ceasefire violations, including five explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 125 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 107 ceasefire violations, including 24 explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 61 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Kashtanove, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations close to the disengagement areas near Zolote and 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 four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM observed National Flag Day and Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in Odessa, Dnipro Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two heavy weapons holding areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 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.

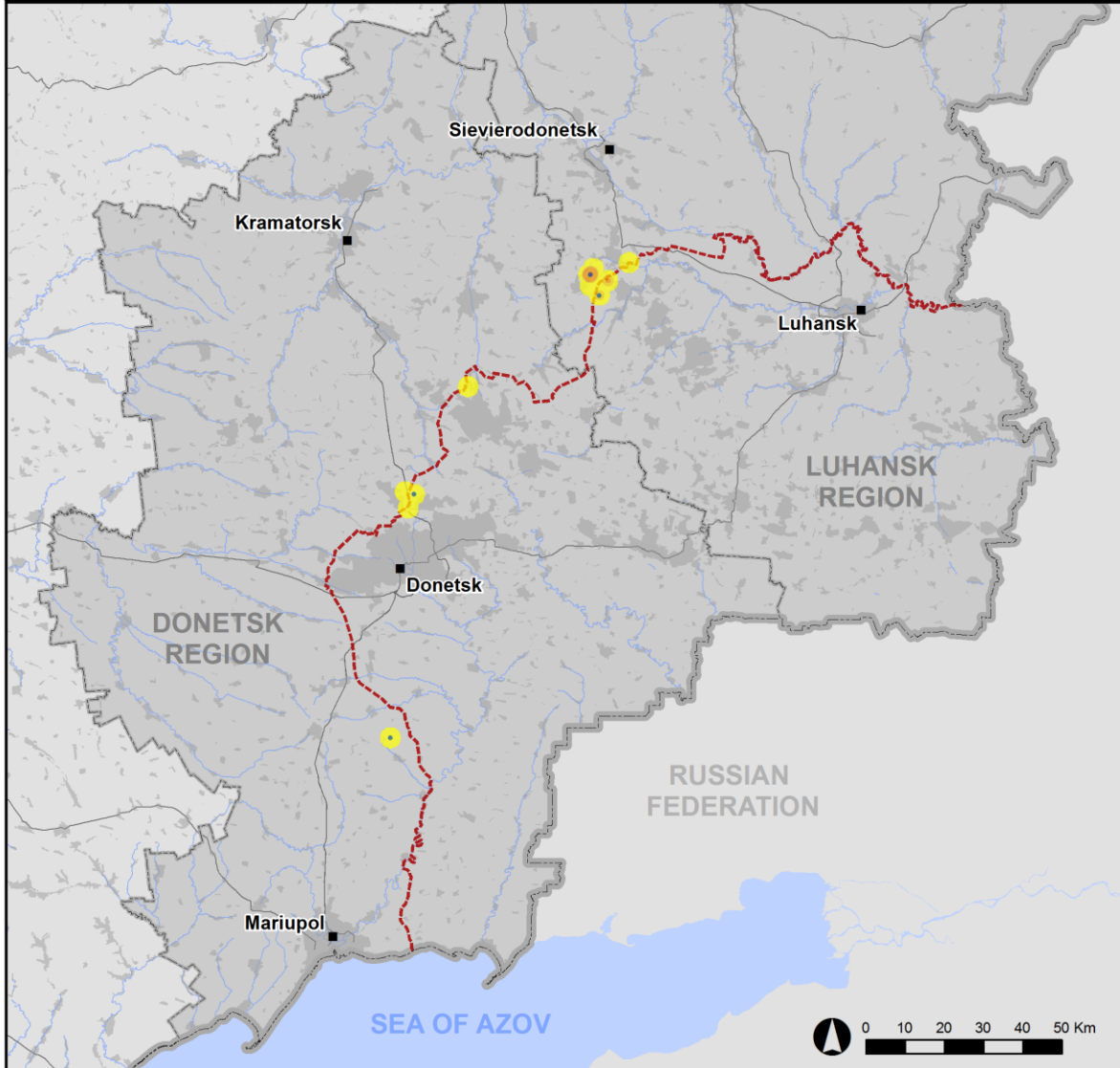
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

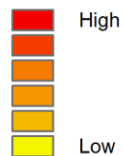


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 25 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: 26/08/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 12 ceasefire violations, including five undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly and westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), including some assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) (see below) and in an area south-west of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 125 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 107 ceasefire violations, including 24 undetermined explosion. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at south-easterly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and at westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 61 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 52,069 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 14,660 explosions, 10,209 projectiles in flight, 267 muzzle flashes, 203 illumination flares and at least 26,730 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAV near non-government-controlled Kashtanove, Donetsk region

While positioned on the east-north-eastern edge of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km west of the Mission's location, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area. During the same flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On the evening of 24 August the SMM camera in Zolote recorded four illumination flares at an assessed range of 3-5km east. On the evening of 24 August and during the day of 25 August, while on the northern edge of Popasna, the Mission heard 12 undetermined explosions and 60 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-5km east-north-east and east. Also during the day of 25 August, while positioned on the southern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the SMM heard 15 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 3-4km west-south-west. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 24 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 six representatives of the State

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

Border Guard Service of Ukraine, two of them placing sand bags on top of logs that had previously been placed on the roof of a structure made of concrete blocks. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 25 August 2021](#).)

On 25 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.

During the day on 25 August, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard four undetermined explosions, at an assessed range of 8-10km south-west, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** but within 5km of its periphery.

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 three tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed two howitzers in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

In a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, the SMM saw four armoured combat vehicles in a compound in a residential area, in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014. (For further information, see the table below.)

While positioned about 1.5km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) the Mission observed one non-SMM UAV flying about at an assessed distance of 4.5km east-south-east of the SMM’s position, despite the ban on the operation of any aerial vehicles included in the 22 July 2020 TCG agreement on Measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

SMM facilitation of the operation and repairs of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the DFS, the Mission heard seven ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

The SMM monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to water pipelines near Zaitseve (50km 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 Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open and that the corresponding

checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing 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.

The SMM observed National Flag Day and Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in Odessa, Dnipro, Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions

On 24 August, the SMM monitored gatherings on the occasion of National Flag Day and Independence Day of Ukraine in Odessa, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Uzhhorod (182km west of Ivano-Frankivsk).

In Odessa, the Mission observed about 500 participants (mixed genders and ages). In Dnipro the SMM saw about 400 participants (mixed genders and ages), and in Kharkiv, it saw about 650 participants (mixed genders and ages). In Ivano-Frankivsk and Uzhhorod, the Mission observed about 1,800 participants (mixed genders and ages) in total. During all events, the SMM observed a calm situation. (See also [SMM Daily Report of 25 August 2021](#).)

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, 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, 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 two heavy weapons holding areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region the Mission could not access these areas: in one case no personnel was present to open its gates, in the second case two armed members of the armed formations said that the Mission lacked permission from their superiors to enter the area.

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.

Conditional:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission was allowed to proceed westward only after a member of the armed formations looked at the trunk of one of its vehicles.

Other impediments⁶:

- While positioned on the east-north-eastern edge of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire, assessed as targeting the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. During the same flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during eight flights: once over areas near Chermalyk and over areas near non-government-controlled Luhansk city and Pervomaisk (58km west of Luhansk) respectively, three times over areas near Pidlisne (government-controlled, 70km north-west of Luhansk), as well as twice over areas near Peremozhne (non-government-controlled, 19km south 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.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/8/2021	3	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Aerial imagery

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/8/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S19 <i>Msta-S</i> , 152mm)	Near Selidove (41km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
25/8/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	In a compound in a residential area near Volia (64km 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.	Patrol
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		

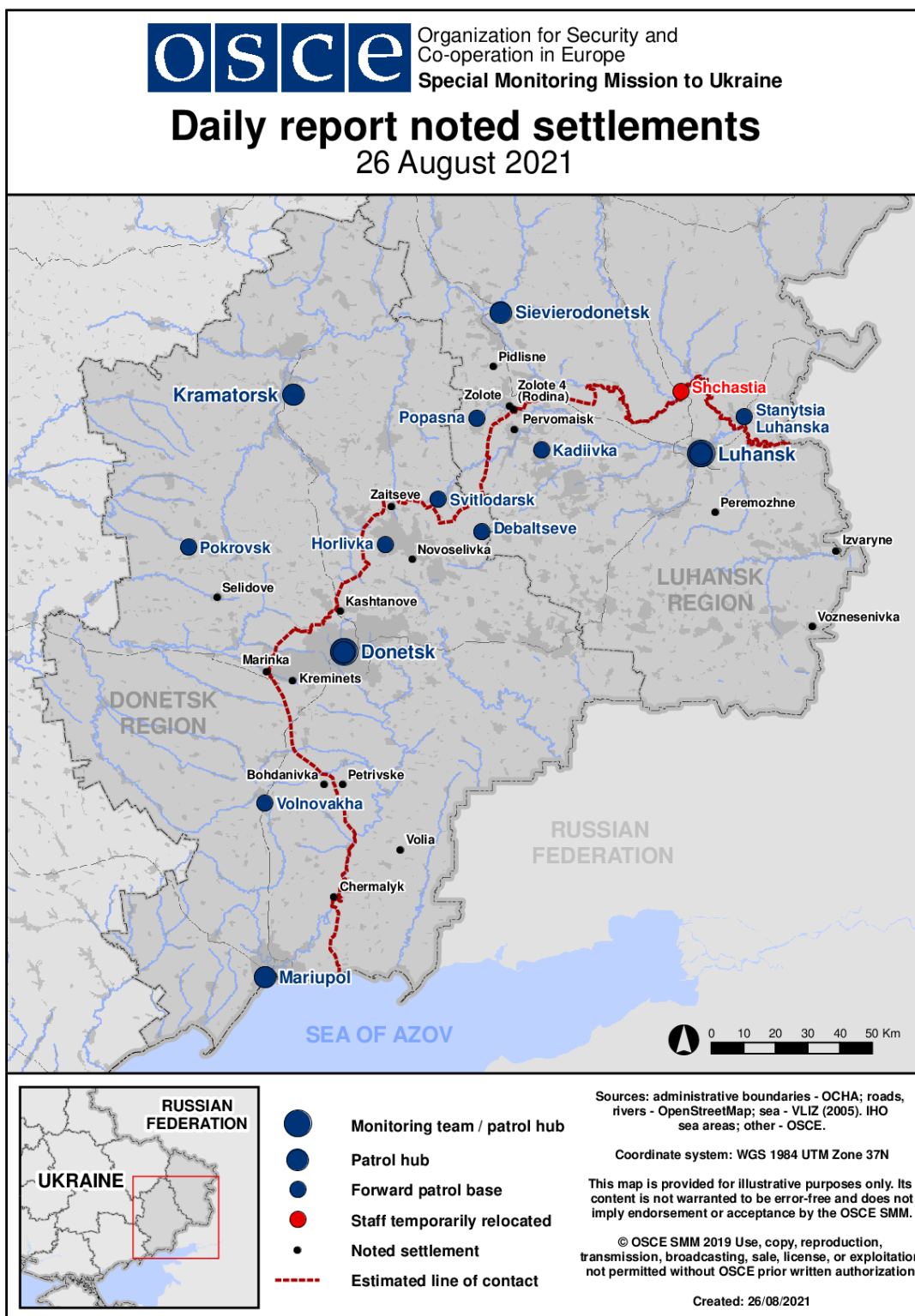
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 August 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	24-Aug, 23:38
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	600m SW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	25-Aug, 09:36
ENE edge of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km N of Donetsk)	1.5km W	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	25-Aug, 10:55
	3-4km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Aug, 10:46
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	8-10km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Aug, 15:10
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Aug, 22:15
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Aug, 22:19
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Aug, 22:50
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Aug, 22:53
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ENE	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	24-Aug, 23:19
	3-5km ENE	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	24-Aug, 23:25
	2-4km E	Heard	25	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	25-Aug, 15:20-15:40
	2-3km E	Heard	19	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	25-Aug, 15:20-15:30
	2-4km E	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	25-Aug, 15:20-15:35
	2-4km E	Heard	12	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	25-Aug, 15:20-15:35
	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	25-Aug, 15:30-15:40
	5-10km SE	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Aug, 15:30-15:55
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-4km WSW	Heard	15	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	25-Aug, 08:38-08:40

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).