

Daily Report 210/2021

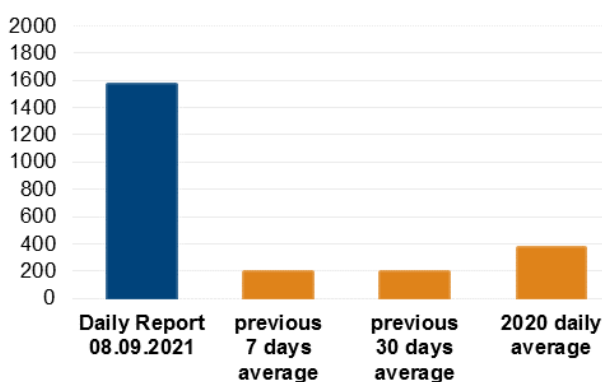
8 September 2021¹

Summary

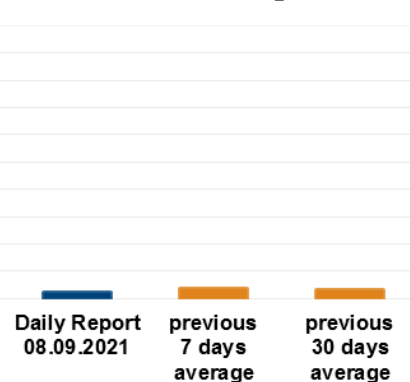
- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 1,090 ceasefire violations, including one explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 114 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 476 ceasefire violations, including 47 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The Mission corroborated a civilian casualty near non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission 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 a border crossing point outside government control and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation, all in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of GPS signal interference. *

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 September 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.

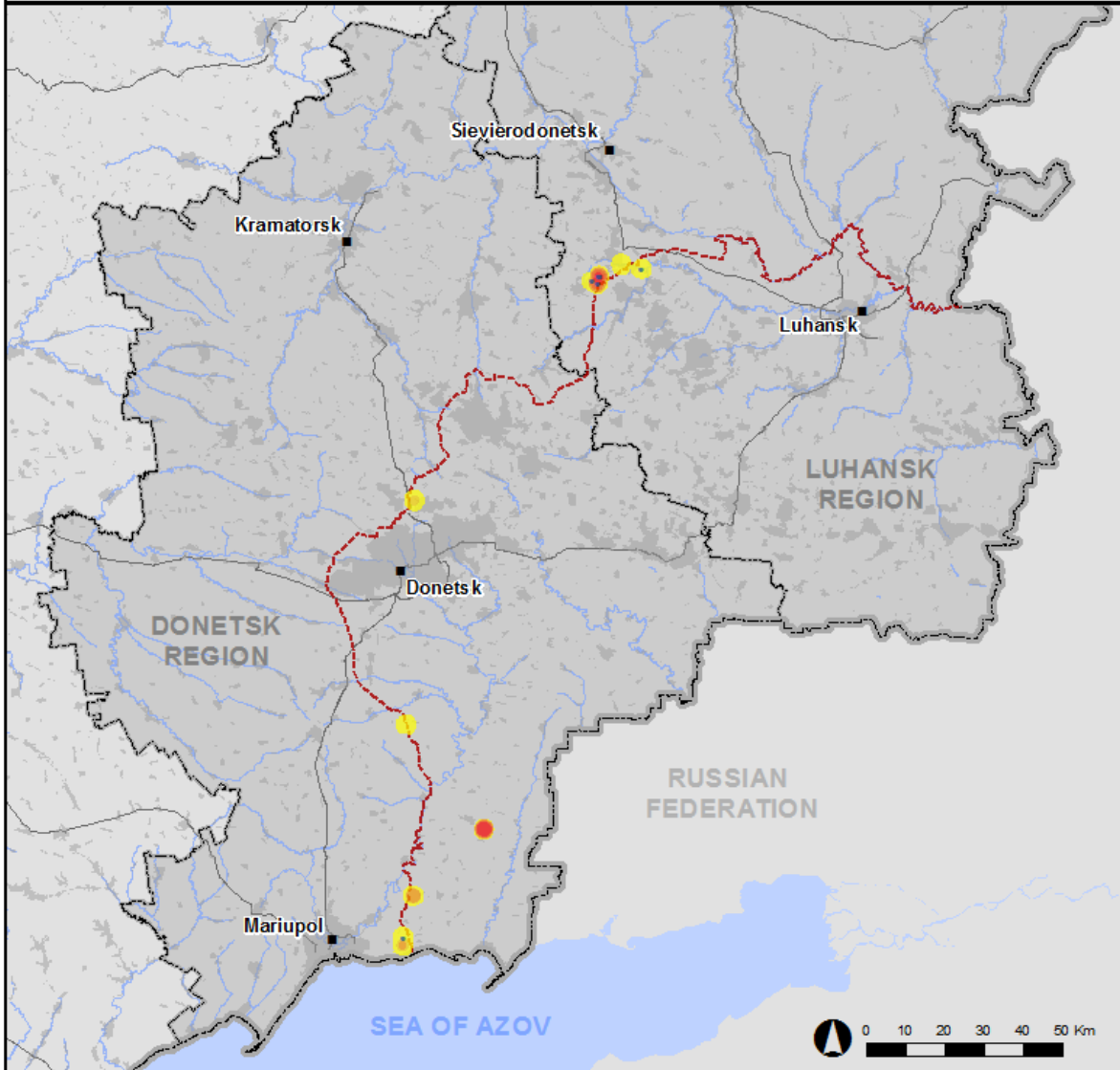
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

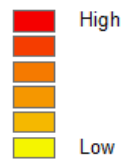


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 7 September 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: 08/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 1,090 ceasefire violations, including one airburst explosion. Almost all ceasefire violations occurred in an area south-west of Zernove (non-government-controlled, 70km south of Donetsk) and were assessed as a live-fire exercise inside the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 114 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 476 ceasefire violations, including 47 explosions (one airburst and 46 undetermined). All ceasefire violations occurred in areas north, east, south-west and west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation, which also occurred near the same disengagement area.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the TCG 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 55,835 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 15,654 explosions, 10,815 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 222 illumination flares and at least 28,874 bursts and shots).

Civilian casualty corroborated near Horlivka, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a woman injured on 6 June in the Haharina settlement in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

On 30 July, a woman (in her sixties) told the SMM over the phone that, on 6 June, she had gone mushroom-picking in a wooded area in the Haharina settlement in Horlivka, when she had heard an explosion and lost consciousness. She said that when she regained consciousness she was in pain and telephoned her niece to fetch her. According to the woman, she was brought to an ambulance at her house by her niece and then taken to a hospital in Horlivka. On 27 July, a woman (age unknown) who introduced herself as the niece of the woman, told the Mission over the phone that, on 6 June, she had received a call from her aunt in Horlivka, and had found her crawling towards her out of a wooded area when she went to pick her up to take her to the ambulance.

On 7 September, the SMM saw a medical certificate, according to which a woman (in her sixties) had been admitted to a hospital in Horlivka with injuries consistent with the detonation of an explosive object, as a result of which her left leg had been amputated.

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).

An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two flights over the disengagement area.*

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 evening of 6 September, the SMM camera in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), recorded one airburst explosion at an assessed range of 3-4km east-south-east. On the same evening, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one projectile in flight at an assessed range of 1-3km east. During the night of 6-7 September, while on the northern edge of Popasna, the Mission heard 44 undetermined explosions and 428 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 4-6km east and east-south-east. On 7 September, while positioned about 3km east of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 6-8km south-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight over the disengagement area.*

The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them).

On the evening of 6 September, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded four projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 1-3km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

On 7 September, while positioned at three locations close to 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 observed one mortar in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw four tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM saw four armoured combat vehicles in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard 12 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) near government-controlled Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk) and Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk) were open but did not observe any traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

While at the EECP, the SMM again observed seven workers (men, in their twenties to fifties) assembling prefabricated metal structures, assessed as to be used by representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. While at the northern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, the Mission saw two men (in their thirties), one of them in a medical uniform, carrying a woman (in her eighties) on a stretcher at the southern edge of the bridge on the non-government-controlled side. It saw that the woman was transferred to another stretcher and carried across the bridge towards the EECP by two women (in their thirties) wearing medical uniforms.

At the checkpoint of the armed formations, the Mission saw a man (in his forties) pushing a cart with a coffin on it towards the checkpoint.

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

At a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), for about two hours, the Mission observed one car (with a "DPR" plate), two covered cargo trucks (with "DPR" plates), two buses (with "DPR" plates, both carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 39 people (21 women and 17 men, mixed ages, and one girl, about ten years old) entering Ukraine.⁶ During the same time, it also saw 45 cars (including 17 with "DPR" and one with "LPR" plates), nine covered cargo trucks (including six with "DPR" plates), ten buses (including seven with "DPR" plates, all carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 69 people (24 women and 43 men, mixed ages, and a girl, age unknown and a boy, about three years old) exiting Ukraine.

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 SMM also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation close to Sadky (75km south-east of Donetsk), Mykhailivka (74km south-east of Donetsk), Novooleksandrivka (75km south-east of Donetsk), Zelenyi Hai (73km south-east of Donetsk), Konkove (79km south of Donetsk) and Samsonove (83km south of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, 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, 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 1 September 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.

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

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during six flights over government-controlled areas: twice each over the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk) and over areas near Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), as well as once each over areas near Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk), and over the disengagement area near Zolote (60km 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 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				
6/9/2021	1	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	Near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, 44km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
7/9/2021	4	Tank (probable T-64 or T-72)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
7/9/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
7/9/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Dovhe (22km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

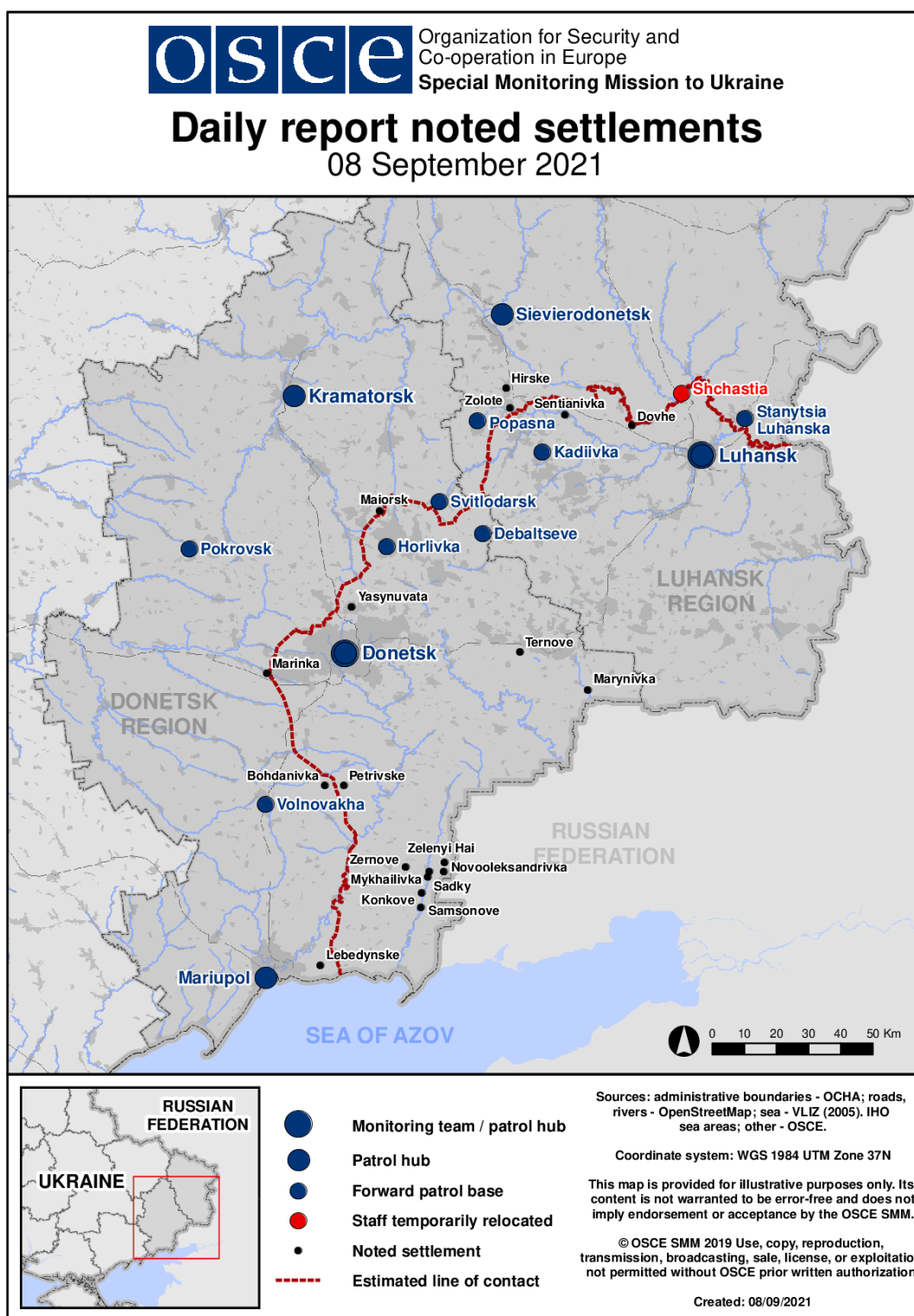
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 7 September 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 ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	N to S (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	6-Sep, 21:00
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	4-6km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	7-Sep, 01:36
	4-6km E	Recorded	11	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	7-Sep, 01:37
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	7-Sep, 01:37
	4-6km E	Recorded	18	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	7-Sep, 01:39
	4-6km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	7-Sep, 01:39
	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	7-Sep, 01:40
	4-6km E	Recorded	9	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	7-Sep, 02:06
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	6-Sep, 21:19
	2-4km N	Recorded	19	Projectile	E to W	N/K	6-Sep, 21:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	6-Sep, 23:13
About 1km SW of Zernove (non-government-controlled, 70km S of Donetsk)	1.5-2km SW	Heard	1,000	Shots and bursts		HMG	7-Sep, 10:50-11:02
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km NW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	7-Sep, 13:25
	1-2km NW	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	7-Sep, 13:54
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	6-Sep, 23:20
	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event, assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Sep, 23:20
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	6-Sep, 23:04
Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Sep, 22:18-22:21
	4-6km E	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km E	Heard	45	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km E	Heard	60	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km E	Heard	135	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km ESE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km ESE	Heard	24	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km ESE	Heard	48	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km ESE	Heard	98	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	6-Sep, 22:30-23:00
	4-6km E	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	6-Sep, 23:10-23:28
	4-6km E	Heard	11	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	6-Sep, 23:10-23:28
	4-6km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	7-Sep, 00:03-00:08
	4-6km E	Heard	7	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	7-Sep, 00:03-00:08
	About 3km E of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	6-8km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K

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).