

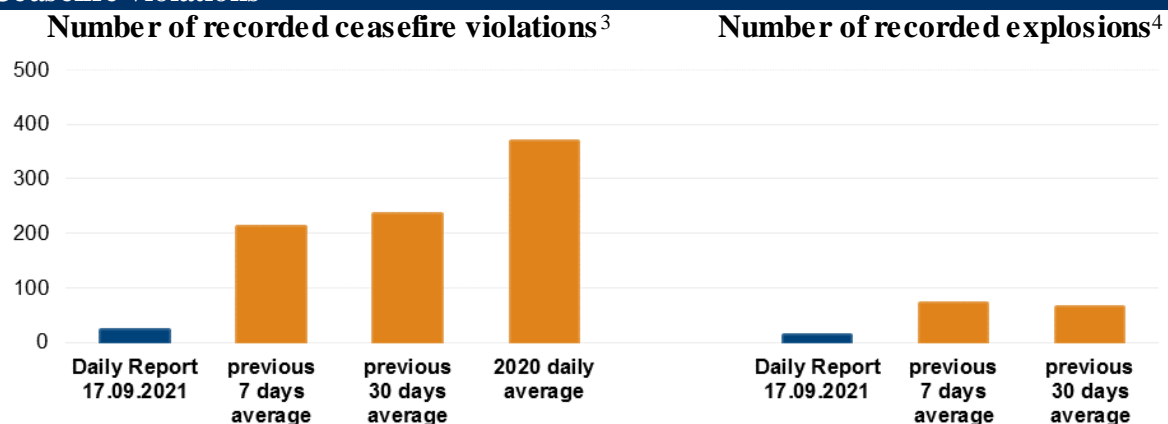
Daily Report 218/2021

17 September 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 23 ceasefire violations, including 13 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 100 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 157 ceasefire violations in the 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 repairs of 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 areas in southern Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka, 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, 16 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.

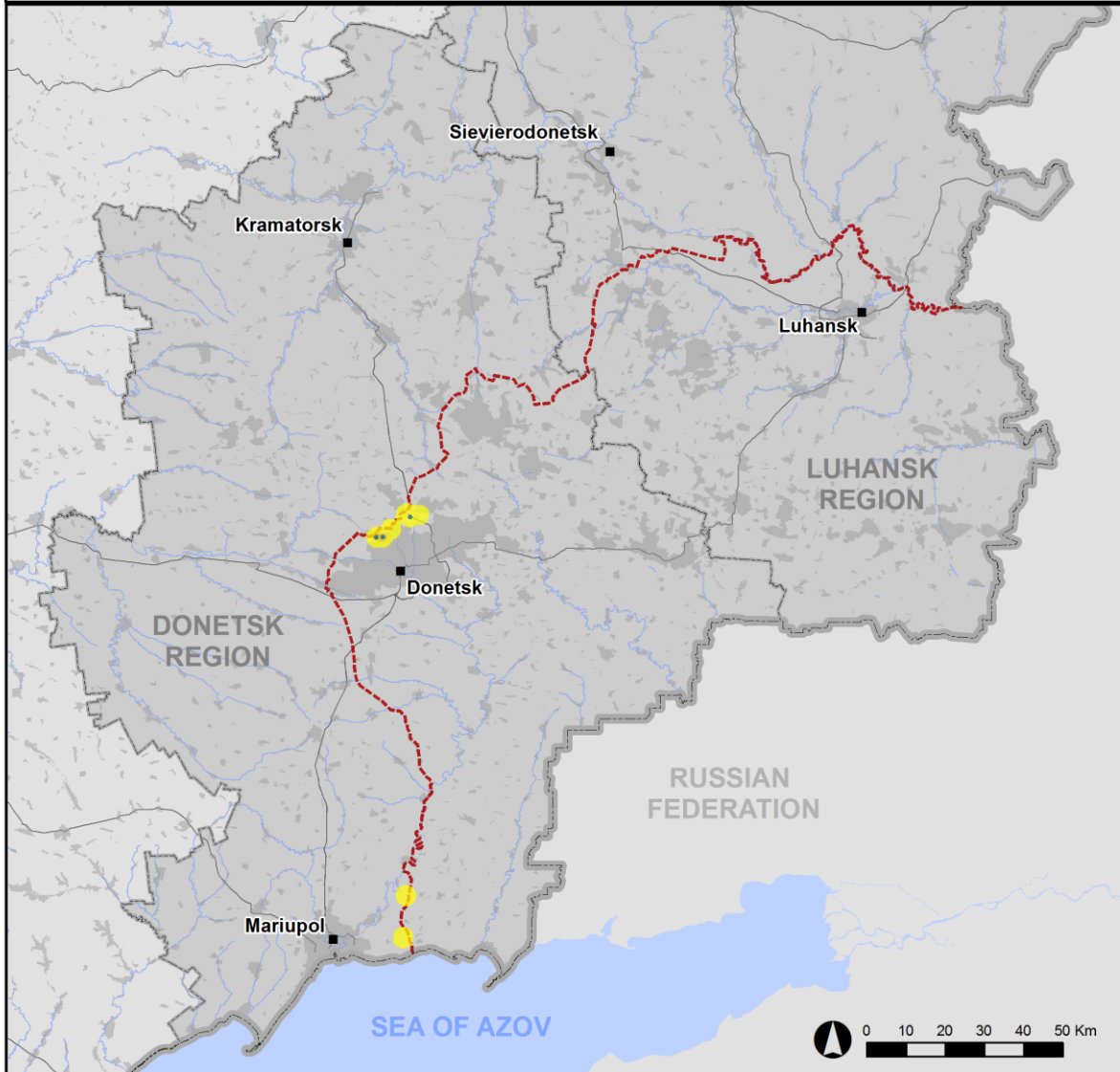
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

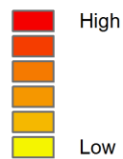


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 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: 17/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations, including 13 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at north-easterly and westerly directions of Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk) and at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 100 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the Mission did not record any ceasefire violations in the region was on [10 September](#). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 157 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 Mission has recorded at least 57,588 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,185 explosions, 11,077 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 231 illumination flares and at least 29,825 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned 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).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations near the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

The SMM 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.

During the day on 15 September, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner, looking through binoculars in the direction of the UAV.

On 16 September, 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 an anti-tank gun and a howitzer in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw two surface-to-air missile systems and two howitzers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, as well as two howitzers in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission saw six armoured combat vehicles and two electronic warfare systems in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in three residential areas. It also observed a combat engineering vehicle in a residential area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Anti-tank mines in non-government-controlled Pikuzy, Donetsk region

On 15 September, about 20m north-west of a residential house on the north-western edge of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted 15 previously reported anti-tank mines laid across road C-051235 leading to Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 2 July 2021](#).)

On 16 September, about 2km north-north-west of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed three minivans bearing the logo of an international organization, and nine people (men, age unknown) wearing protective gear conducting de-mining activities in fields on both sides of a local road.

SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations close to the station, the SMM heard one undetermined explosion and six bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to roofs of buildings at the DFS, and to a power substation in Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km 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 but did not observe any civilian traffic passing through. It also observed 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 and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

About 140m north of the EECF and about 130m further north of it, the Mission saw that construction works of two modular buildings continued. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 14 September 2021](#).)

The Mission noted that the EECFs 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.

At the EECF near Zolote, on the north-western side of the road leading to Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed two representatives of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine painting concrete barriers in camouflage colours.

Security situation in southern Kherson region

The SMM monitored areas in southern Kherson region, near Oleshki (12km south of Kherson) and in areas along the Black Sea coast near Lazurne (62km south of Kherson) and 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, 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 Co-ordination (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 15 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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission to proceed west through the settlement only after about 15 minutes of waiting, citing "a lack of permission from

superiors to allow the SMM's passage". While at the checkpoint, the SMM saw civilian traffic passing through.

Other impediments:⁶

- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during six flights: twice over areas near Orlyvske (government-controlled, 82km south of Donetsk); and once over areas near Staromykhailivka, Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), Lyman (non-government-controlled, 12km north-west of Luhansk), and Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), respectively.

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				
16/9/2021	1	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	Near Staropetrivske (35km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a residential area of Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/9/2021	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Yasnohirka (88km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	2	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Khibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/9/2021	2	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/9/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Hnutove (90km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
16/9/2021	1	Electronic warfare system (TCI-903-02)	Near Vershyna (63km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a residential area of Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Orikhove-Donetske (44km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Electronic warfare system (TCI-903-02)	In a residential area of Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/9/2021	1	Combat engineering vehicle (IMR-2)	In a compound in a residential area of Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV

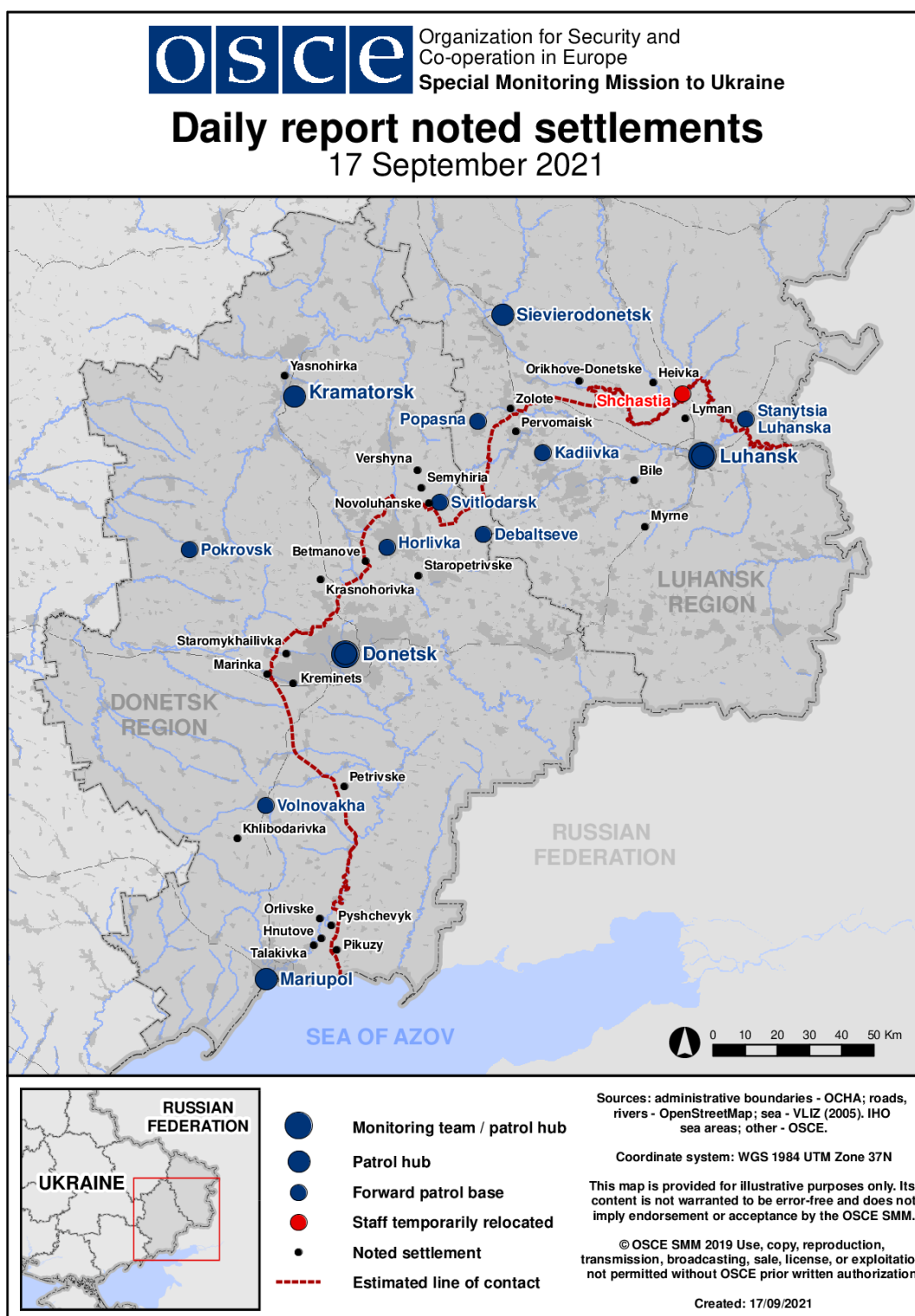
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 September 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	15-Sep, 23:01
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	15-Sep, 22:51
	1-2km W	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Sep, 22:33
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	2-4km NE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	15-Sep, 21:24
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:37
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:39
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:40
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:41
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:42
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 07:59
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 08:00
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 08:01
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 08:02
	50-100m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 08:03
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Sep, 21:51
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	16-Sep, 11:08
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	16-Sep, 13:50
About 3km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 10:40

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).