

# Daily Report 219/2021

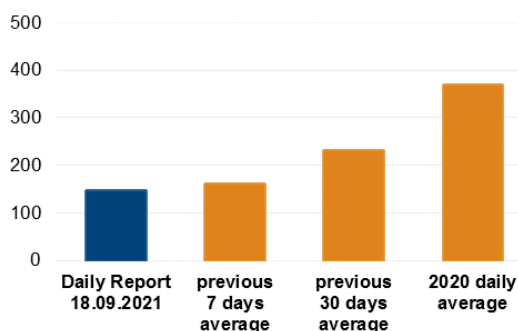
18 September 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

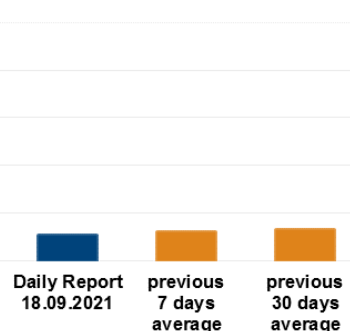
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 113 ceasefire violations, including 39 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 23 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 33 ceasefire violations, including 13 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM saw craters near a local power substation and a civilian property in government-controlled Taramchuk, Donetsk region.
- The Mission lost spatial control of two mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora and Tsvitni Pisky, Luhansk region. The latter UAV was subsequently retrieved with severe damage.
- 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 Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Novoazovsk and Markyne, and at a border crossing point near Uspenka, Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>



Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



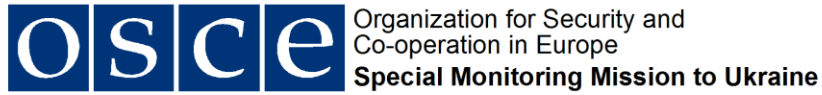
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

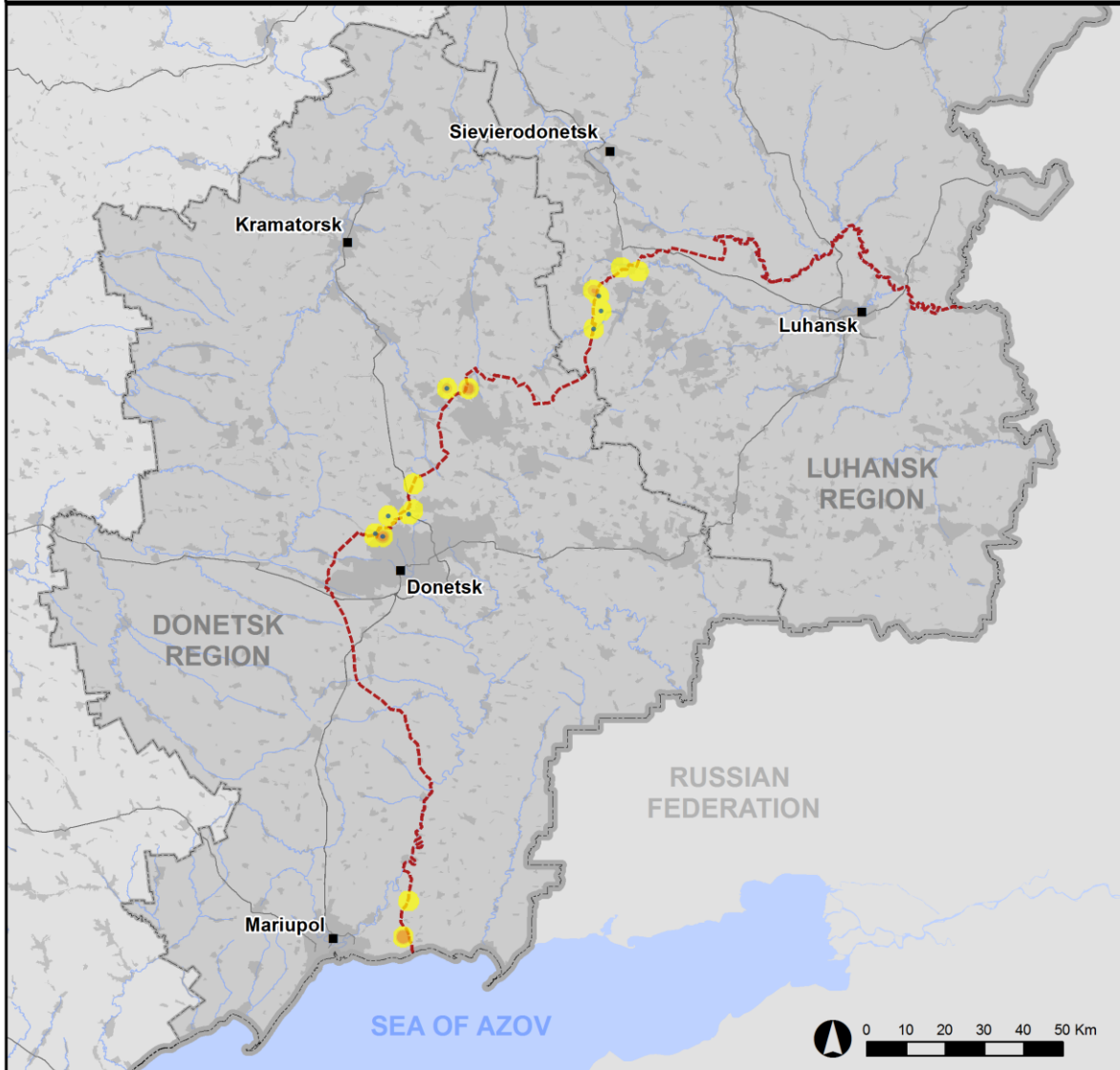
<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

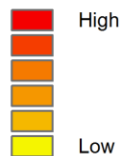
### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 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: 18/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 113 ceasefire violations, including 39 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), east and west of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), and at north-easterly and westerly directions of the Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 23 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 33 ceasefire violations, including 13 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no 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 57,734 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,237 explosions, 11,141 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 236 illumination flares and at least 29,850 bursts and shots).

#### **Craters near a local power substation and a civilian property in government-controlled Taramchuk, Donetsk region**

The SMM followed up on reports of damage in the area of a local power substation and a civilian property in Taramchuk (government-controlled, 29km south-west of Donetsk).

In a field about 15m south of a power substation, the Mission saw a crater (about 1.5m in diameter, 50cm in depth), not previously reported. About 400m east from the same substation, the Mission saw that a power line had been severed between two poles.

About 200m further west of the severed power line, in a yard about 25m south of a single-storey house at 8 Klenova Street, the Mission saw another crater (about 1.5m in diameter, 40cm in depth), not previously reported.

The SMM assessed the damage and craters as recent but could not assess the type of weapon used or the direction of fire.

A woman (in her forties), who introduced herself as the owner of the house, said that on the morning of 16 September, she had heard explosions nearby and that the local power supply had been disrupted.

#### **Loss of spatial control of two SMM mini-UAVs near non-government-controlled Vesela Hora and Tsvitni Pisky, Luhansk region**

The SMM was positioned on the south-eastern edge of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. From 11:26 to 11:37, while the UAV was flying over an area about 1.5km west of the SMM's position, the aircraft experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. The SMM was not able to retrieve the UAV and subsequently left the area.\*

About 2.5km north of Tsvitni Pisky (non-government-controlled, 11km north of Luhansk), the Mission conducted an announced mini-UAV flight. Upon take-off, at 12:18, the SMM immediately experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming which lasted throughout the flight. Subsequently, at 12:32, when the SMM attempted to land the UAV, the aircraft flew in a circle at high speed and crashed into the road about 150m south of the SMM's position. These manoeuvres were not initiated by the SMM. The Mission retrieved the UAV with severe damage to its wings, gimbal and camera.\*

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

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 16 September, the SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) recorded one projectile in flight at an assessed range of 1-3km east-south-east. On 17 September, while positioned on the south-western edge of Bereziwske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk), the Mission heard five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km west-north-west. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 16 September, about 200m north of the northern-edge of the disengagement area, the SMM spotted a mine hazard sign (a red square with "Danger, mines!" written on it in Ukrainian and Russian), not previously reported, next to a trench (assessed as recently maintained), on the south-eastern edge of a road leading eastward towards Zolote 4-Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk).

On the same day, while positioned near the same checkpoint, 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.

On 17 September, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

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

### **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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, in Donetsk region, the Mission saw one anti-tank guided missile system and two surface-to-air missile systems in government-

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

controlled areas, including in a residential area, as well as one tank in a training area in a non-government-controlled area. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission saw an anti-aircraft system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **SMM facilitation - the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at two locations close to the station, the SMM heard seven ceasefire violations including one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. Two of these ceasefire violations occurred when a bus with DFS workers was driving between Yasynuvata (non-government controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) and the station.

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 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 Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km 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 Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed, as previously announced in local media.

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.

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 Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed 23 cars (including 18 with "DPR" plates), two covered cargo trucks, ten buses (all with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 59 people (26 women, 30 men of mixed age, and three children) entering Ukraine. At the same time, the Mission also observed eight cars (including six with "DPR" plates), three buses (all with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), 15 minibuses (all with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 57 people (28 women, 29 men of mixed ages)

exiting Ukraine<sup>6</sup>. After about 30 minutes, two armed members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, 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 below). 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.*

#### Denials:

- At a border crossing point near Uspenka (non-government-controlled, 73km south-east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.
- At a checkpoint near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations, two of whom were armed, denied the SMM passage eastwards towards the border crossing point, referring to military-type activities in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint near Markyne (non-government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage north into the settlement, referring to security threats in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

#### *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:<sup>7</sup>

- The Mission lost spatial control of two mini-UAVs during two flights over areas near Vesela

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and Tsvitni Pisky (non-government-controlled, 11km north of Luhansk). It was not able to retrieve the first UAV, while it retrieved the second one with severe damage. Both UAVs had experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during their flights. (See above.)

- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Prokhorivka (government-controlled, 53km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during eight flights: during four flights over areas near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); and once over the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), over Prokhorivka, Oknyne (government-controlled, 53km west of Luhansk) and over Novohryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 33km west of Luhansk), respectively.



## Tables of weapons

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
16/9/2021	1	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P149 <i>Shturm-S</i> , 130mm)	Near Vesele (66km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
17/9/2021	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	In a residential area of Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
15/9/2021	1	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	Aerial imagery

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
16/9/2021	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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<sup>8</sup> 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 17 September 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	16-Sep, 23:38
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Sep, 23:10
	1-3km E	Recorded	18	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Sep, 23:12
	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	17-Sep, 00:26
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-3km W	Recorded	3	Projectile	NE to SW	N/K	16-Sep, 21:29
	1-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Sep, 22:50
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:18
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:19
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:20
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:22
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:23
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:24
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:26
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:29
	50-200m NE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:31
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:32
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:33
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:34
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:35
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:36
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:42
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:43
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:44
	50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:45
50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:46	
50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:47	
50-200m NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:48	
50-200m NE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 06:49	
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	16-Sep, 20:04
	4-6km N	Recorded	30	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	16-Sep, 20:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Sep, 22:15
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	16-Sep, 23:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	16-Sep, 23:39
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	16-Sep, 23:44
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	17-Sep, 01:02
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	17-Sep, 09:10
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 12:51
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2km E	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	17-Sep, 13:20
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 12:50
Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km W	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 14:28-14:36
	3-4km W	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 14:49-14:53
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Sep, 23:40
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	17-Sep, 00:25-00:26
	6-8km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 00:25-00:26

<sup>9</sup> 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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	4-6km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	17-Sep, 01:56
	4-6km SE	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	17-Sep, 02:44
	4-6km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	17-Sep, 02:45
	6-8km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 02:47
SW edge of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	1-2km WNW	Heard	5	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	17-Sep, 15:00-15:15
About 1.5km NNW of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 17:30-17:40
	10-12km SSW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Sep, 17:30-17:40

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).