

Daily Report 224/2021

24 September 2021¹

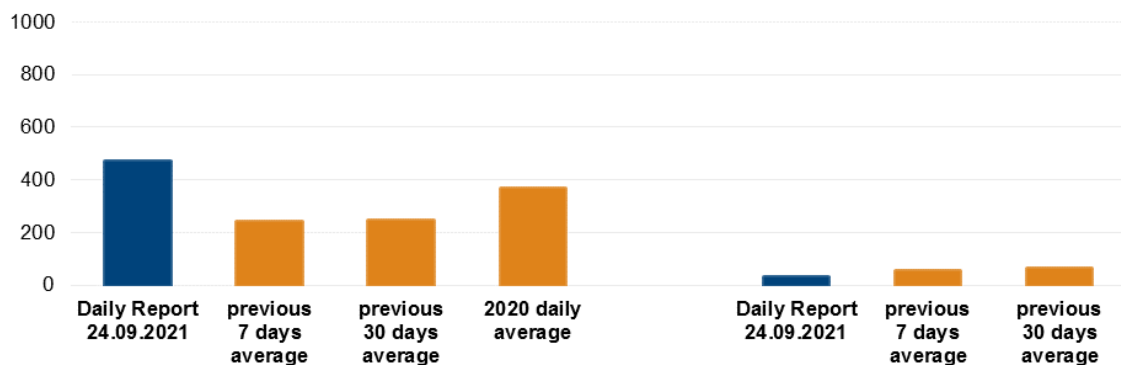
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 285 ceasefire violations, including 17 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 745 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 126 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 144 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of damage to civilian properties in non-government-controlled Donetsk city and Dokuchaievsk as well as to a working school in Yasynuvata, Donetsk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) near government-controlled Shyrokyne, Donetsk region and non-government-controlled Kruta Hora, Luhansk 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 three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at the checkpoints of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske and Novoazovsk in southern Donetsk region. Its mini-UAVs experienced instances of jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 23 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Weather conditions limited observational capabilities of one of the SMM's cameras.

³ Including explosions.

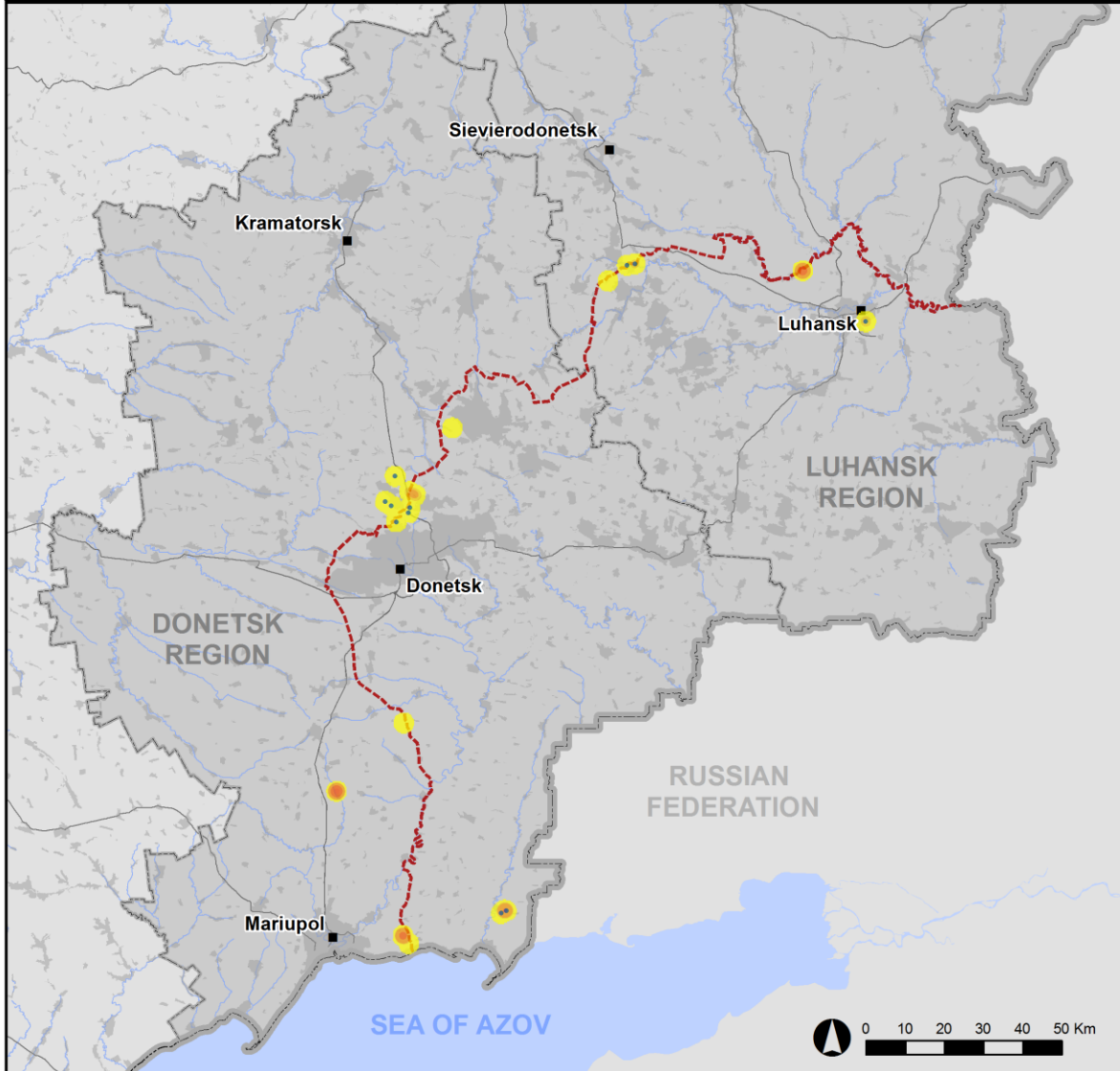
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

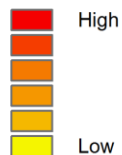


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 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: 24/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 285 ceasefire violations, including 17 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Anadol (government-controlled, 65km south of Donetsk) and east of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), the latter being assessed as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 745 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 126 ceasefire violations, including 15 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area north-east of Kruta Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north-west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 144 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 59,667 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,602 explosions, 11,595 projectiles in flight, 270 muzzle flashes, 240 illumination flares and at least 30,960 bursts and shots).

Damage to civilian properties in non-government-controlled Donetsk city, Dokuchaievsk and a working school in Yasynuvata, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to residential properties in Donetsk city's Kuibyshevskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 5km west of Donetsk city centre).

On 21 September, at 26 Enhelsa Street, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a hole in the south-west facing part of an asbestos roof and damage to the plaster of the south-west facing wall of a single-storey house.

At 28 Enhelsa Street, the same UAV spotted that about three-quarters of the roof of a single-storey house had been severely damaged, with asbestos sheets shattered or missing and some of the exposed wooden rafters broken.

The SMM assessed the above mentioned damage as recent and caused by probable 82mm mortar rounds. It could not assess the direction of fire.

About 20m south-west of the previous house, at 39 Enhelsa Street, the Mission saw a crater (1m in diameter) about 10m east of an inhabited single-storey house. The Mission also saw a hole in the roof and a hole (2m in diameter) in the ceiling of the same house.

About 90m south-south-east of the previous house, at 48 Shvernika Street, in the garden 10m west of an inhabited single-storey house, the Mission saw a crater (1m in diameter) as well as multiple shrapnel marks in its west-facing wall and holes in two windows on the same wall.

The SMM assessed all above damage and craters as recent and caused by probable 120mm mortar rounds. It could not assess the direction of fire.

Two men (in their fifties and sixties), who introduced themselves as the owners of the abovementioned houses, told the SMM that they had been at their homes on the morning of 17 September when they had heard shelling nearby.

The SMM also followed up on reports of damage to residential properties in Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk).

On 22 September, at 41A/22 Lenina Street, the Mission saw four holes (about 15 to 20cm in diameter) on the west-south-west-facing wall of an inhabited four-storey residential building: one under a window on the first floor, two west of another window on the same floor, and one under a window on the third floor. The SMM assessed the damage as recent and caused by an undetermined weapon fired from a westerly or south-westerly direction. A man (in his sixties) and a woman (in her fifties), who introduced themselves as residents of the building, told the Mission that while at home on 11 September they had heard explosions nearby. (For information on the man's injuries, see [SMM Daily Report of 15 September 2021](#).)

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to a working boarding school in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

On 23 September, at 24a Tsentralnyi Mikroraion Street, the Mission saw that the north-eastern part of the roof was missing some roofing tiles. It also saw four shattered, north-facing windows, and holes in their metal window sills. The SMM assessed the damage as recent. The SMM could not assess the type of weapon used or direction of fire.

A woman (in her forties), who introduced herself as the director of the school, told the Mission that when shelling started on the morning of 21 September, all 85 children and school staff were evacuated to the school's shelter.

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at two SMM mini-UAVs near government-controlled Shyrokyne, Donetsk region and non-government-controlled Kruta Hora, Luhansk region

While positioned about 1.5km west-north-west of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 2.8km north-east of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 3km north-east of the SMM's position. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.*

While positioned on the northern edge of Kruta Hora to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 96 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.8km north-east of the SMM's position, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations, about 2km north-east of the SMM's position. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.* Imagery recorded by the same SMM mini-UAV during the same flight later revealed the presence of two people, assessed as members of the armed formations, aiming their weapons at the UAV.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east Luhansk) the Mission saw four 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).

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

While positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions, 15 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). 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.

On the night of 22-23 September, the SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) recorded one illumination flare at an assessed range of 2-3km west-south-west, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**.

During the day on 23 September, while positioned at one location 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 two mortars in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including in a residential area.

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

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission saw an armoured combat vehicle in a non-government-controlled area. (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 near the station, the SMM heard 15 ceasefire violations (including four undetermined explosions), assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, 12 of which (including one undetermined explosion) occurred when a bus with DFS workers was between Yasynuvata and the station.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to electricity infrastructure in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (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. At the EECP, the SMM observed a crane and six men (in their twenties to forties) installing a frame for a new pedestrian shelter. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 23 September 2021](#).) About 300m south of the EECP, the SMM observed two representatives of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine removing an object assessed as a remnant of war (an undetermined ammunition type) from the western edge of the road leading southwards to the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

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.

SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv

In Kyiv, in front of the Verkhovna Rada at 5 Mykhaila Hrushevskoho Street, the Mission saw about 2,000 people (of mixed genders, mostly in their fifties and sixties), some with flags and insignia of an opposition party, expressing messages in support of a parliamentarian affiliated with the same party. It observed about 450 law enforcement officers and a calm situation.

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

***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 20 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.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage east into the settlement, referring to ongoing training activities in the area.
- At a checkpoint near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage east towards the border crossing point near Novoazovsk, referring to ongoing training activities in the area. While at the checkpoint, the SMM saw 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:⁶

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Kruta Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north-west of Luhansk). (See above.)
- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during eight flights: on three occasions near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), on three occasions near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), once near Panteleimonivka (non-government-controlled, 26km north-east of Donetsk), and once near Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk).

⁶ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference 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				
22/9/2021	1	Mortar (probable PM-43, 120mm)	Near Dachne (47km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
23/9/2021	1	Towed mortar (2B9 <i>Vasilek</i> , 82mm)	In a residential area of Luhansk city	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/9/2021	2	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)	Near Nikolske (formerly Volodarske, 97km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
22/9/2021	4	Tank (T-64)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	3		In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
22/9/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Pakhalivka (40km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

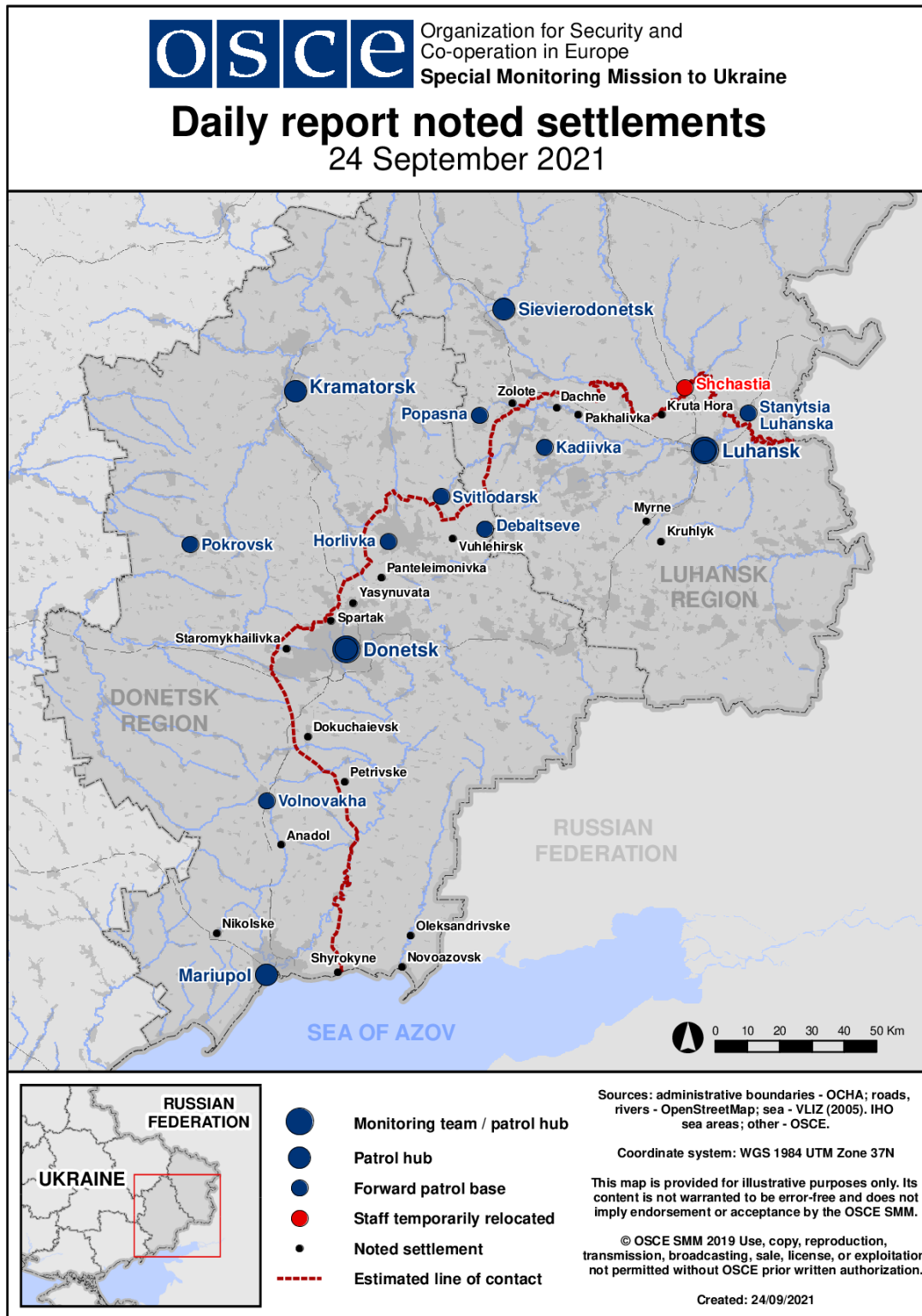
Table of ceasefire violations as of 23 September 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	5-7km ENE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	22-Sep, 20:59
	5-7km ENE	Recorded	9	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	22-Sep, 21:00
	5-7km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	22-Sep, 21:01
	5-7km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	22-Sep, 21:06
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 00:23
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 00:35
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	4-6km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 00:36
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km WSW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Sep, 00:11
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	16	Projectile	W to E	N/K	22-Sep, 19:39
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	15	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:14
	4-6km N	Recorded	21	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:15
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:16
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:17
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 21:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 22:19
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	E to W	N/K	22-Sep, 22:20
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Heard	4	Shots and bursts	Undetermined	Small arms	22-Sep, 19:54
	600-700m ESE	Heard	11	Shot		Small arms	23-Sep, 09:12
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 09:20
	6-8km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 11:07
Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 24km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 11:45
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 11:11
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 11:49
About 2km NE of Anadol (government-controlled, 65km S of Donetsk)	1-2km W	Heard	150	Shot		Small arms	23-Sep, 10:30-11:15
About 1km E of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km SE of Donetsk)	2km ESE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 11:38-11:42
	2km ESE	Heard		Shot	Uncountable	Small arms	23-Sep, 11:38-11:42
	1-2km SSE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	Mortar (type N/K)	23-Sep, 11:45-11:55
	1-2km ESE	Heard		Burst	Uncountable	Small arms	23-Sep, 11:45-11:55
About 1.5km WNW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2.8km NE	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	23-Sep, 10:58
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-4km WSW	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	23-Sep, 09:35
	3-4km WSW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	23-Sep, 09:35
About 250m S of the NE edge of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	12-14km SW	Heard	13	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Sep, 10:22-10:35
N edge of Kruta Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km NW of Luhansk)	1.8km NE	Heard	96	Burst		Small arms	23-Sep, 10:51-10:53

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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SW edge of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	3km NW	Heard	9	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	23-Sep, 11:27-11:41
	3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Sep, 11:30
	4-5km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Sep, 11:51

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).