

# Daily Report 228/2021

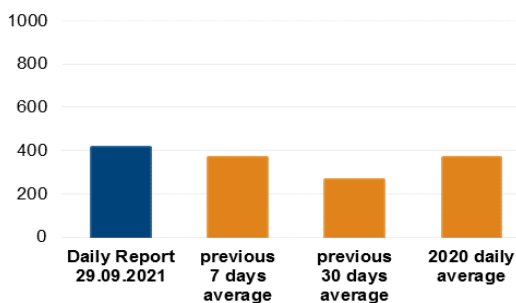
29 September 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

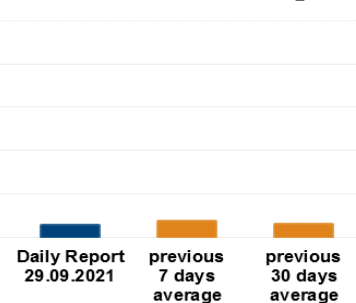
- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 257 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 143 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 159 ceasefire violations, including 38 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 139 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations outside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near non-government-controlled Shyroka Balka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM saw for the first time an anti-personnel mine (MON-90) laid on the edge of the road close to a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Popasna, Luhansk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation, construction, and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region and observed no changes.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Prymorske in southern Donetsk region. Its mini-, mid- and long-range UAVs experienced instances of jamming.\*

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

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



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



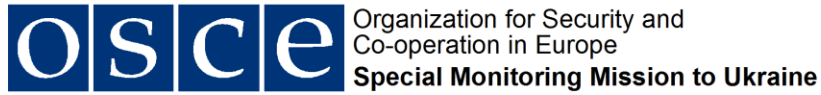
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 28 September 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras at the Oktiabr mine were not operational and the SMM camera near Hnutove was operational for only part of the reporting period.

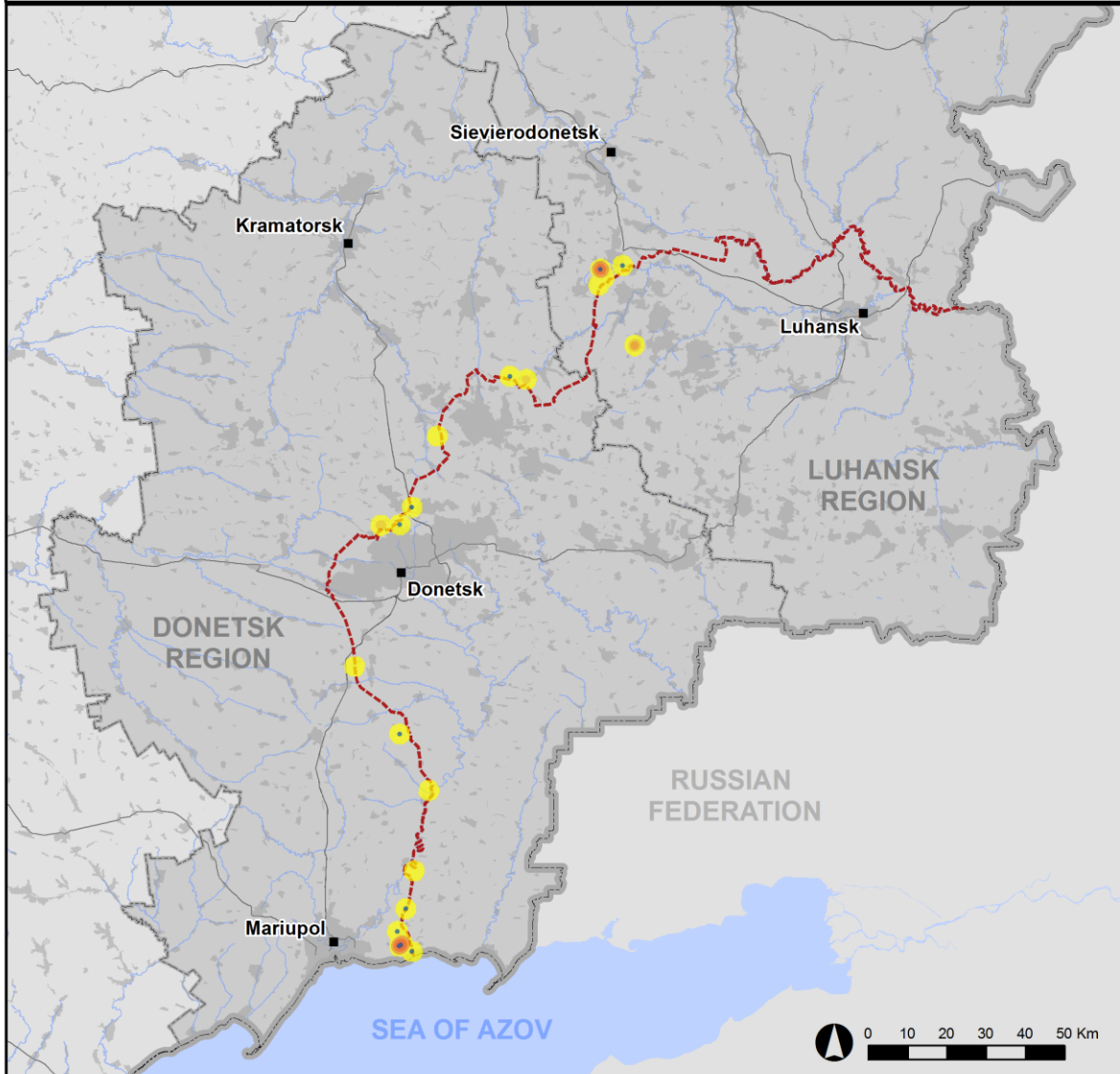
<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

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

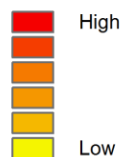
### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 28 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: 29/09/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 257 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions (one airburst and 14 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 143 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 159 ceasefire violations, including 38 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly and westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below) and in an area north-northeast of Hannivka (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 139 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred in areas close to the disengagement area near Zolote.

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 61,109 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 16,888 explosions, 11,831 projectiles in flight, 272 muzzle flashes, 245 illumination flares and at least 31,873 bursts and shots).

#### **Small-arms-fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAV near non-government-controlled Shyroka Balka, Donetsk region**

While positioned on the northern edge of Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard two bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 3km south-south-west, assessed as targeting the UAV, which was flying over positions of the armed formations. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.\*

#### **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 27 September, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 1-3km east, and the SMM camera on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded three projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 4-7km east and east-south-east. During the day on 28 September while on the northern edge of Popasna, the Mission heard 35 undetermined explosions and 98 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 4-7km east-north-east. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

On 28 September, 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

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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.

area's southern edge and inside the area, as well as a previously reported underground structure inside the area.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard and saw one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 5-7km 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 observed two mortars in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, in a compound near a residential area.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 13 howitzers and one surface-to-air missile system in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The Mission saw three armoured reconnaissance vehicles in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Presence of anti-personnel mine near Popasna, Luhansk region**

About 2km east of the eastern edge of Popasna, on the northern edge of road T-0504, near a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the SMM saw one anti-personnel mine (MON-90, not previously reported and not seen in imagery of 7 September), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also continued to monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to the roofs of buildings at the DFS, as well as to enable the construction of a sewage system at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska. (For previous observations in the areas, see [SMM Daily Report of 28 September 2021](#).)

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<sup>6</sup> This paragraph in the [SMM Daily Report of 25 September 2021](#) should have read: "All these extensions and the mortar pits were assessed as dug between 7 October 2020 and 26 August 2021." instead of "All these extensions and the mortar pits were assessed as dug between 26 July and 26 August 2021."

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

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. At the EECP, the SMM saw four men (in their twenties to forties) working on a metal structure. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 28 September 2021](#).)

The SMM 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**

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 55 minutes, the Mission observed seven cars (including four with “DPR” plates), one bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 20 pedestrians (16 women and four men of mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the Mission observed 30 cars (including 25 with “DPR” plates), 37 covered cargo trucks (including 18 with “DPR” plates), four buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 33 pedestrians (20 women and 10 men of mixed genders and ages, and three children between five and eight years old) exiting Ukraine.<sup>7</sup>

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 35 minutes, the SMM observed one man (in his fifties) entering Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation close to Ohulchansk (25km east of Luhansk), Makariv Yar (formerly Parkhomenko, 28km east of Luhansk) and Kruzhylivka (34km east of Luhansk), and observed no change in the security situation.

### **The SMM monitored the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region**

On 26-28 September, the SMM monitored areas in east and south-east Kherson region, at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), along the Sea of Azov near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson), Frunze (178km east of Kherson), Stokopani (181km east of Kherson), and Komisarivka (189km east of Kherson), as well as along the North Crimean canal. While monitoring these areas, the Mission 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**

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<sup>7</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.

*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 28 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 Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), citing “concerns for the Mission’s safety”. 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:<sup>8</sup>

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk). (See above.)
- An SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, and GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Andriivka (government-controlled, 79km north-west of Donetsk).
- The Mission cancelled four mid-range UAV flights due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming: three flights near Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 30km north-east of Donetsk) and one flight near Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four flights: three times over areas near Mykhailivka and once over areas near Lebiazhe.

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<sup>8</sup> 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.



## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
28/9/2021	2	Mortar (2B11 <i>Sani</i> , 120mm)	In a compound near a residential area of Stare (formerly Chervonyi Prapor, 58km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### 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>				
27/9/2021	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	In a compound near Novomykolaivka (69km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
28/9/2021	4	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Khibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	Near Volnovakha (53km south of Donetsk)	

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>9</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
28/9/2021	3	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

<sup>9</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 28 September 2021<sup>10</sup>**

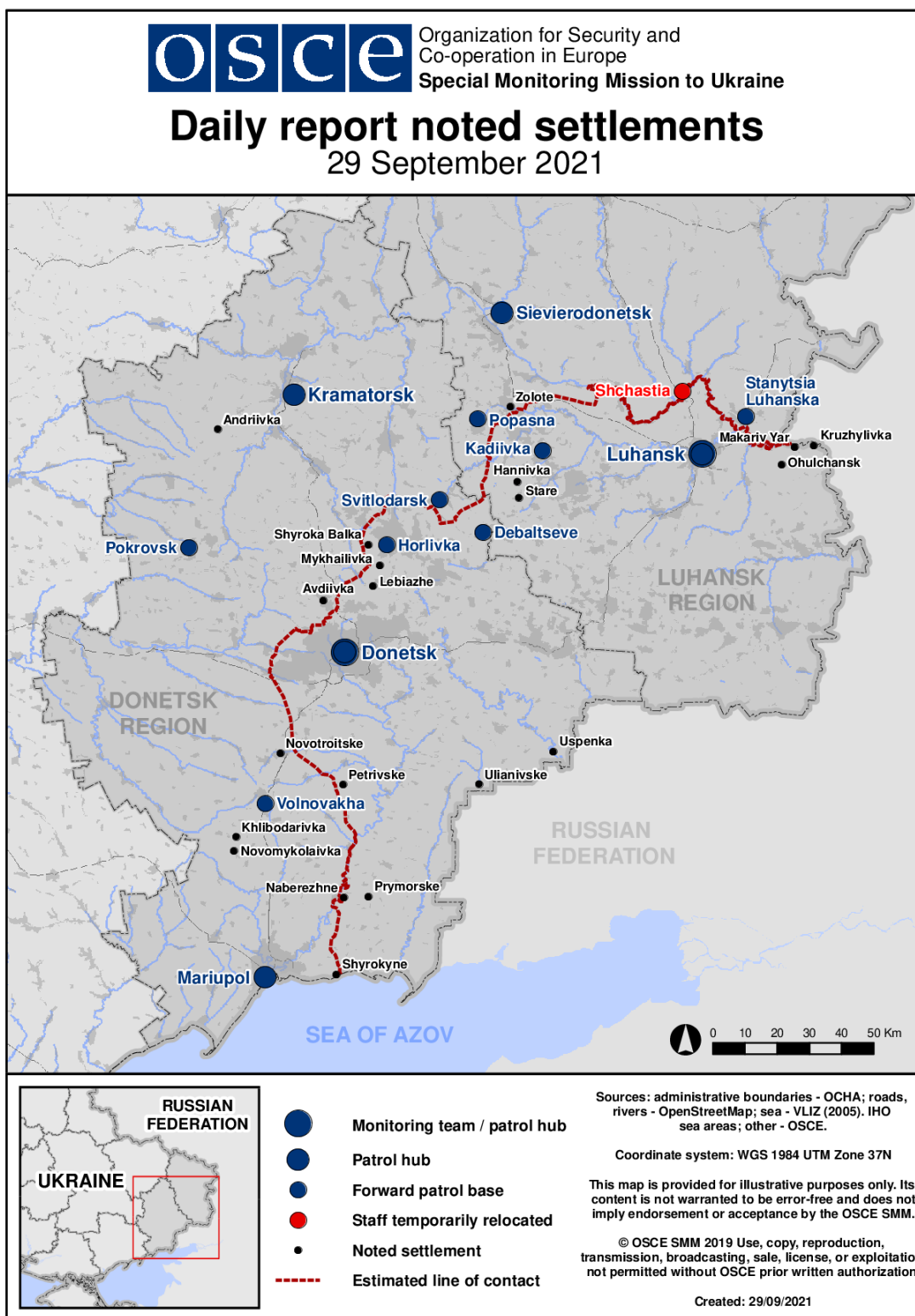
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	27-Sep, 20:42
	2-4km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	27-Sep, 22:22
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (also recorded by the SMM camera near the entry-exit checkpoint near Hnutove)	N/K	27-Sep, 22:35
	2-4km NE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	27-Sep, 19:34
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km WSW	Recorded	10	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	27-Sep, 22:09
	5-7km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Sep, 22:15
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	5-7km SW	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	28-Sep, 11:57
About 600m ENE of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	3km NW	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	28-Sep, 10:10-10:25
	3km NW	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	28-Sep, 10:10-10:25
About 500m E of Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km NE of Donetsk)	3km SSW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	28-Sep, 13:57
SE part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 10:35
	2-4km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 12:15
About 1.0km ENE of Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	5-7km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 12:52
	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 12:53
Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	2-3km NNE	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	28-Sep, 12:05
About 2km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NE	Heard	80	Shot		Small arms	28-Sep, 12:45-12:48
	1-3km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 12:51-12:53
	1-3km NE	Heard	43	Shot		Small arms	28-Sep, 13:01-13:04
	1-3km NE	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	28-Sep, 13:01-13:04
	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 13:01-13:04
	1-3km NE	Heard	40	Shot		Small arms	28-Sep, 13:05-13:07
	1-3km NE	Heard	36	Burst		Small arms	28-Sep, 13:05-13:07
	1-3km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Sep, 13:25
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	27-Sep, 19:04
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Sep, 19:19
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-Sep, 19:19
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	27-Sep, 19:19
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km E	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-Sep, 19:03
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-7km ENE	Heard	35	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	27-Sep, 18:57-19:17
	4-7km ENE	Heard	98	Burst	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	HMG	27-Sep, 18:57-19:17

<sup>10</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.



<b>SMM position</b>	<b>Event location</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Date, time</b>
About 2.5km NNW of Hannivka (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	2-3km E	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	28-Sep, 11:30-11:40

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</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).