

Daily Report 246/2021

20 October 2021¹

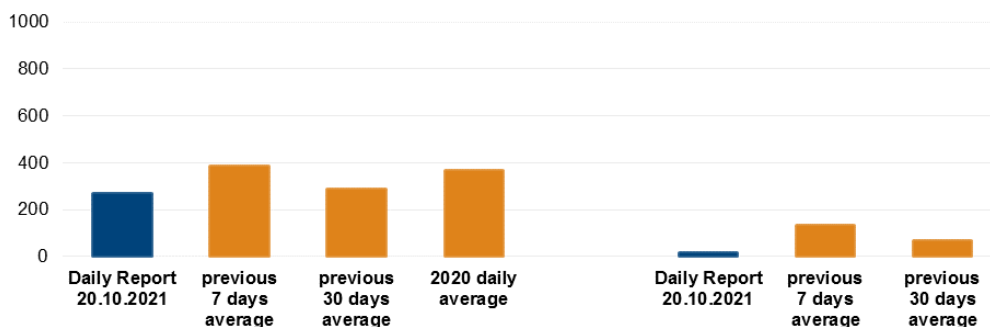
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 216 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 255 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 53 ceasefire violations, including two explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 135 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of damage to three residential buildings in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka.
- The Mission observed that the gathering in front of the hotel where Mission members reside in non-government-controlled Donetsk city continued. There was no patrol movement in and out of its premises on 19 October. The gathering continued on 20 October.*
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.*
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation, repairs and construction of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka and at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, all in Luhansk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of probable jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



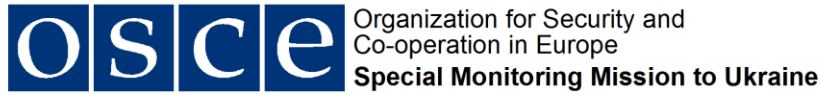
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 19 October 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

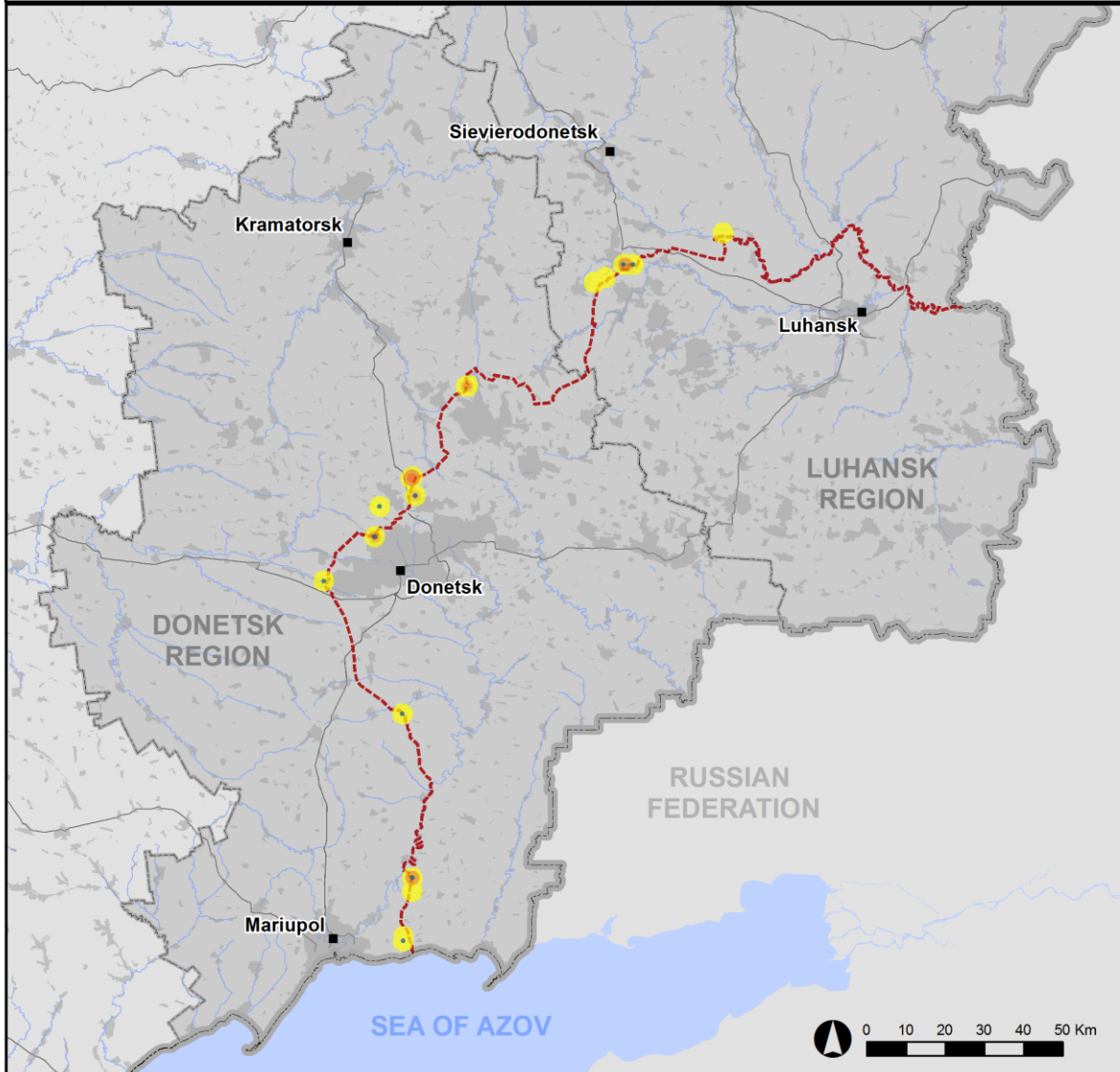
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

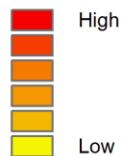
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 October 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: 20/10/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 216 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions (three airbursts and 13 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and south-south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 255 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 53 ceasefire violations, including two explosions (one airburst and one undetermined). Almost all ceasefire violations occurred in areas north, north-north-east and south-south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 135 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which also occurred near 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 SMM has recorded at least 66,394 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 18,295 explosions, 13,744 projectiles in flight, 302 muzzle flashes, 266 illumination flares and at least 33,787 bursts and shots).

Damage to three inhabited residential buildings in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region

On 18 October, the Mission followed up on reports of damage to three inhabited residential buildings in the southern part of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), all located between 800m and 900m south of positions of the armed formations.

At a five-storey residential building at 14 Voikova Street, the SMM saw a hole (about 9cm in diameter) in a north-facing kitchen window of an inhabited fifth-floor apartment and saw multiple glass shards on the ground beneath the aforementioned window. A woman (in her sixties), who introduced herself as the owner of the apartment, told the Mission that a bullet had struck the window on the evening of 17 October.

About 80m further north, at a second five-storey residential building at 13 Voikova Street, the SMM saw a hole (about 9cm in diameter) in a north-facing balcony window of an inhabited fourth-floor apartment and a corresponding hole in the glass of an inner window. The Mission also observed a hole in a carpet hanging on the internal east-facing wall of a room in the same apartment, 4m from the outer balcony window. A woman and a man (in their fifties and sixties), who introduced themselves as residents of the apartment, told the SMM that a bullet had penetrated both windows and struck the carpet on the evening of 17 October.

About 45m further west, at a third five-storey residential building at 9 Voikova Street, the Mission saw a hole (about 10cm in diameter) in a north-facing, single-pane window of an inhabited ground-floor apartment. A woman (in her fifties), who introduced herself as a resident of the apartment, told the SMM that a bullet had struck the window on the evening of 17 October.

The Mission assessed all the aforementioned damage as recent and caused by small-arms fire of unknown calibre.

The gathering continued in front of the hotel where Mission members reside in non-government-controlled Donetsk city

The SMM continued to observe a gathering in front of the hotel where Mission members reside in the central part of non-government-controlled Donetsk city. There was no patrol movement in and out of its premises on 19 October.

Throughout the day, around the hotel, the SMM observed a gathering of between 30 and 80 people (mixed genders and ages). It again heard protesters playing loud music over a speaker and saw media representatives filming statements and speeches given by participants. It also again observed that some protesters communicated with handheld radios and that they had placed wooden pallets on the driveway of the hotel, which could hamper vehicle access to the hotel entrance.

In the morning of 19 October, three Mission members exited the hotel to perform vehicle checks in the parking lot of the hotel. Eight participants of the gathering (men in their twenties and thirties) in civilian clothes allowed the Mission members to approach the SMM vehicles after 5 minutes; some of them used their mobile devices to record Mission members performing vehicle checks, after which the Mission members returned to the hotel.

On several occasions during the reporting period, the SMM observed different vehicles blocking the gate leading to the parking lot at the rear of the hotel, as well as blocking the eastern and western entrance of the hotel, and the presence of two members of the armed formations around the hotel. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 19 October 2021](#).)

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 observed a calm situation.

On the evening of 18 October, the SMM cameras in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) and Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded two explosions (one airburst and one undetermined), 41 projectiles in flight and two bursts of an unknown weapon at an assessed range of 2-6km east. During the day on 19 October, while positioned on the north-eastern edge of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard five bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 3-5km north-north-west. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

On 19 October, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw two 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 area's southern edge and inside the area. It again saw that road barriers across road T-1316, on the area's southern edge and about 20m north of it, were closed. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 19 October 2021](#).)

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

During the day on 19 October, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission heard one undetermined explosion and three bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2km north-north-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) but within 5km of its periphery.

Due to the suspension of patrolling by the Donetsk Patrol Hub, in connection with the gathering (see above), the SMM was unable to send a patrol to monitor the disengagement area from Petrivske.*

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.

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

The Mission observed two armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including one near a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of mine hazard signs near Vasylivka, Donetsk region

At a checkpoint of the armed formations about 3km east of Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) on highway M-04, the SMM saw two mine hazard signs (red squares with “Danger Mines” written on them in Russian, not previously reported), one on a concrete block on the road and the other attached to a wooden pallet on the east side of the road.

While positioned about 1km south-west of Novohryhorivka (government-controlled, 55km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed 20 members of an international organization with personal protective equipment unloading metal detectors from four vehicles parked next to a local road.

SMM facilitates operation, repair and construction of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (DFS) and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to the roofs of its buildings. While positioned on the western edge of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard 16 ceasefire violations, including one undetermined explosion and 15 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as inside a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable the construction of a road connecting Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk) with road T-0519.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. Next to the processing

booth but outside the EECP, the Mission saw a construction (about 4m in height) with a wooden roof covered with a military-style camouflage net.

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 control⁶

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed 80 covered cargo railway cars and a locomotive arriving at the station and continuing in an eastern direction. After about four minutes, an armed member of the armed formations told the Mission that it would only be allowed to stay for a few minutes.

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka, the Mission observed one car and three people (two women and one man, mixed ages) entering Ukraine, and one car (with “LPR” plates) exiting Ukraine. After about seven minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, citing “orders from superiors”.*

The SMM 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 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.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards the bridge, referring to a lack of prior coordination with those in control.
- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations asked the SMM to leave the area, citing “orders from superiors”. (See above.)

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.

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.

Conditional access:

- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, an armed member of the armed formations told the Mission that it would only be allowed to stay for a few minutes. (See above.)

Other impediments:⁷

- As a result of an ongoing protest in Donetsk city, the SMM was unable to deploy any patrols from that location to conduct its mandated tasks. (See above)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five flights: on two occasions each over areas near Dubove (government-controlled, 44km north-west of Luhansk) and Obozne (non-government controlled, 18km north of Luhansk), and on one occasion over areas near Oleksandrivsk (non-government controlled, 10km west of Luhansk).

⁷ 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 military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/10/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
19/10/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	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 19 October 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	4-6km SSE	Recorded	40	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	18-Oct, 20:17
	4-6km SSE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	18-Oct, 20:18
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	19-Oct, 03:24
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	18-Oct, 19:06
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	5	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	18-Oct, 19:06
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	18-Oct, 19:06
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	18-Oct, 20:00
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Oct, 20:00
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	18-Oct, 20:00
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Oct, 20:21
	1-2km ENE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	18-Oct, 20:21
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 03:08
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-3km W	Recorded	12	Projectile	S to N	N/K	18-Oct, 20:05
	1-3km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	18-Oct, 21:17
	1-3km W	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	18-Oct, 21:18
	1-3km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Oct, 21:47
	1-3km W	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Oct, 22:10
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	18-Oct, 19:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Oct, 19:33
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	19-Oct, 00:24
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NNW	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	19-Oct, 11:57
	2-3km NNW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	19-Oct, 12:04
	2-3km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 12:04
	2-3km NNW	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	19-Oct, 12:23-12:40
Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km WSW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Oct, 08:52
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	1-3km NE	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:06
	1-3km NE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:18
	1-3km NE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:27
	1-3km NE	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:32
	1-3km NE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:36
	1-3km NE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:47
	1-3km NE	Heard	9	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 11:57
	1-3km NE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 12:04
	1-3km NE	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 12:25
	2-3km NE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 12:30-12:40
	2-3km NE	Heard	12	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 12:55-13:05
	2-3km NE	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 13:10-13:20
	2-3km NE	Heard	14	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 13:30-13:40
	2-3km NE	Heard	17	Burst		HMG	19-Oct, 13:50-14:40
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	19-Oct, 11:52

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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	2km NNE	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	19-Oct, 11:52
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	2-4km SW	Recorded	3	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	18-Oct, 20:00
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 19:15
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 19:16
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:04
	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:04
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Burst	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:04
	2-4km E	Recorded	8	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:05
	2-4km E	Recorded	12	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:12
	2-4km E	Recorded	19	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	18-Oct, 22:14
In Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NNW	Heard	5	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	19-Oct, 13:35-13:40

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).