

Daily Report 249/2021

23 October 2021¹

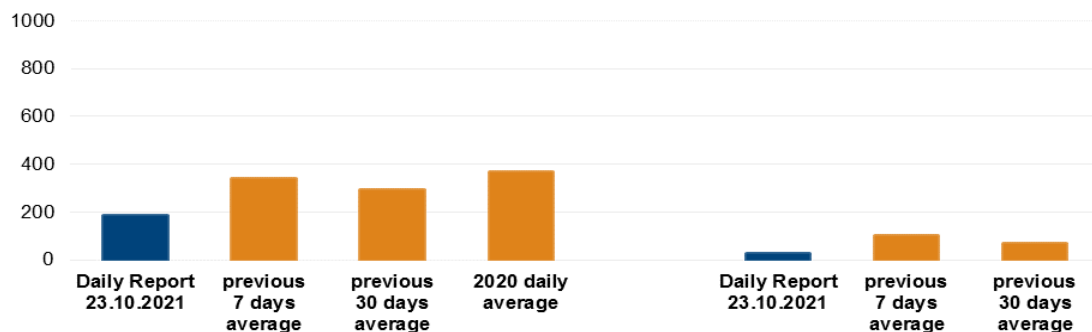
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 134 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 169 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 11 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 71 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM 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 22 October.*
- The Mission observed that the gathering ended on 23 October (outside the reporting period.)
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.* It registered ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at six entry-exit checkpoints (including the ones near Zolote and Shchastia) and at four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of jamming and 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, 22 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.

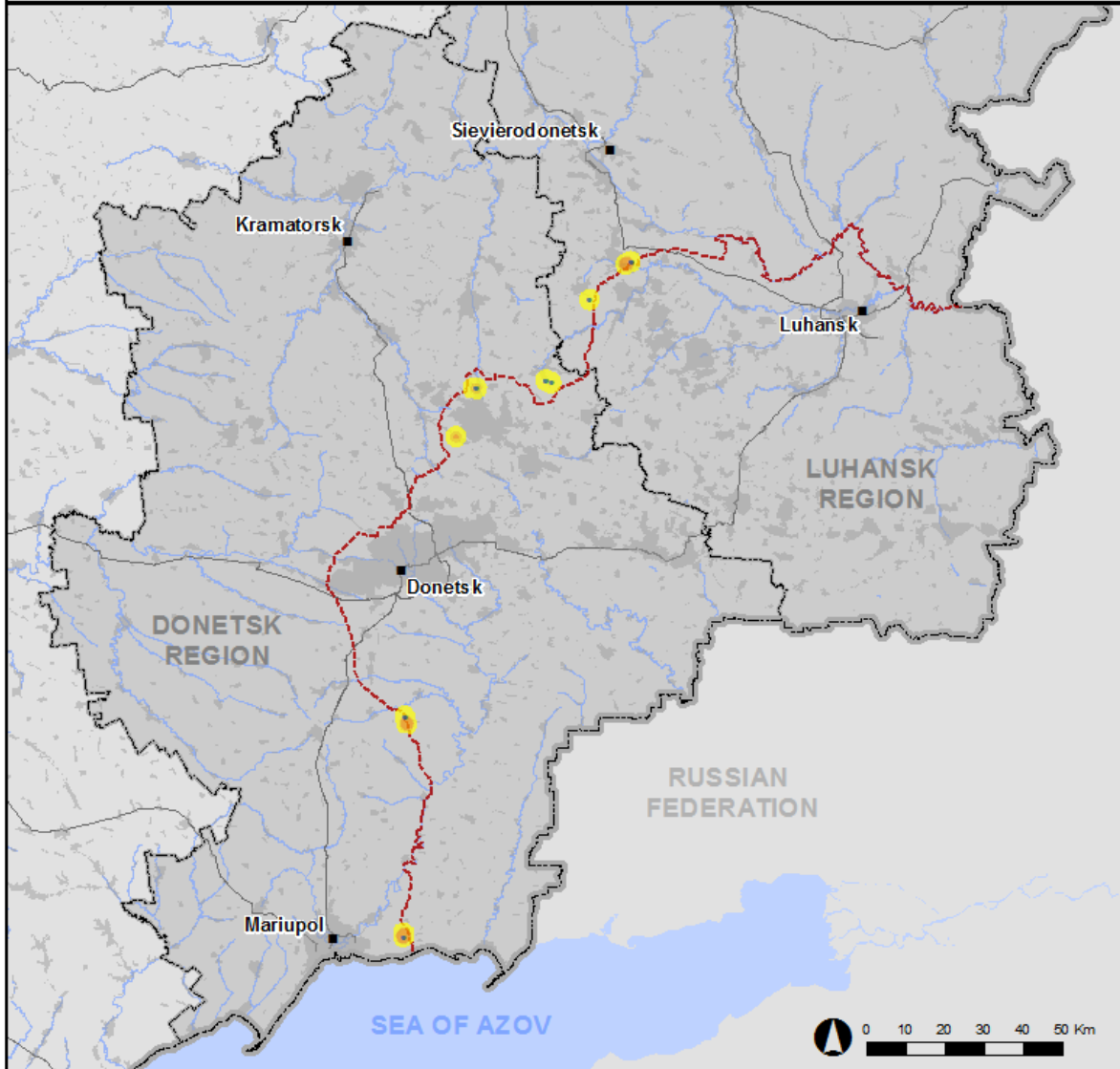
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

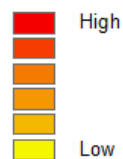


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 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: 23/10/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 134 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions (one impact and 14 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below), in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas east of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 169 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which also occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 11 explosions (three outgoing, three impact and five undetermined). All ceasefire violations occurred in areas east, east-south-east and south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 71 ceasefire violations in the region.

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 66,947 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 18,477 explosions, 14,008 projectiles in flight, 308 muzzle flashes, 268 illumination flares and at least 33,886 bursts and shots).

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 22 October.

Throughout the reporting period, around the hotel, the Mission observed a gathering of approximately 30 people (mostly men, in their thirties) during the night of 21-22 October and of up to 250 people (mixed genders and ages) during the day on 22 October.

During the night of 21-22 October, the Mission observed up to 20 men (in their twenties and thirties) rotating around the hotel regularly with at least two standing on the eastern and western entrance driveway of the hotel at all times.

In the morning of 22 October, three Mission members exited the hotel to perform vehicle checks in the hotel parking lot. Nine protesters (men in their twenties, thirties and forties) in civilian clothes observed the Mission members performing these checks, after one of them had told them that they would monitor the SMM's maintenance activities. Also, six of them recorded the Mission members' maintenance activities on mobile devices. After performing the checks, the Mission members returned to the hotel.

During the day on 22 October, the SMM saw some of the protesters assemble at various times in front of the hotel, singing songs, giving speeches and holding up placards with messages critical of the Mission's activities, as well as playing loud music over speakers and watching films on a portable screen.

On several occasions during the reporting period, the Mission observed members of the armed formations in vehicles with the inscription "police" on them blocking the eastern and western entrance driveways to the hotel, as well as the presence of two men in military-style clothing

around the hotel. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 October 2021](#).)

Outside the reporting period, on the evening of 23 October, the SMM saw the so-called “mayor” of Donetsk city addressing the gathering in front of the hotel after which the Mission observed the crowd dispersing peacefully. It also saw some of the participants of the gathering started to dismantle the tents installed in front of the hotel.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw five 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).

During the night of 21-22 October, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded 38 projectiles at an assessed range of 2-4km east, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

During the morning of 22 October, while positioned near the disengagement area, the Mission heard six explosions (three outgoing and three impacts) at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint south of the area, the SMM saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the area’s southern edge and inside the disengagement 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.

On the night of 21 October, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 41 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 1-3km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

On the evening of 22 October, the SMM camera in Petrivske, recorded two undetermined explosions and one projectile at an assessed range of 2-3km west-north-west, assessed as inside the disengagement area.

During the day of 22 October, while positioned at two locations west of the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

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.*

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

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission 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, the SMM observed 12 howitzers near a railway station in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission observed two armoured reconnaissance vehicles in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and four armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of repair and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to the roofs of its buildings.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable assessment and maintenance at two phenol sludge reservoirs near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk) and to enable the construction of a road near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) were open, and observed civilian traffic passing through in both directions at the latter EECP. It also observed that the EECP near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremiets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed. Due to the gathering in front of the hotel where Mission members reside in Donetsk city (see above), the SMM was unable to send a patrol to monitor the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).*

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. Near the document processing booths of the EECP, the SMM saw five workers (men in their fifties) operating a crane and carrying out construction works on a pedestrian shelter. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 October 2021](#).)

The SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia 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

On 18 October, aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence of three military-type trucks in a compound near Samiilove (89km south of Donetsk), as well as the presence of one military-type truck in a compound in Klynkyne (85km south-east of Donetsk), about 2.5km north and 1.5km south of the international border with the Russian Federation, respectively. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 19 October 2021](#).)

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 [SMM Daily Report of 20 October 2021](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:⁶

- 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.)
- Near a railway station in Rubizhne (government-controlled, 84km north-west of Luhansk), three representatives of the Ukrainian Armed Forces prevented the SMM from taking photographs of the military presence on site.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two flights over areas near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km 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 UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/10/2021	12	Towed howitzer (2A36 <i>Giatsint-B</i> , 152mm)	Near a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/10/2021	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Orlivske (82km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
22/10/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Dubrivka (7km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in a residential area of Stare (formerly Chervonyi Prapor, 58km west of Luhansk)	

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 22 October 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	41	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske	N/K	21-Oct, 23:50
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 19:20
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	21-Oct, 19:20
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 19:20
	3-5km E	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 19:20
	3-5km E	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 19:20
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 22:00
	SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K
2-3km WNW		Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Oct, 18:39
2-3km WNW		Recorded	1	Projectile	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	N/K	22-Oct, 18:39
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 19:00
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 19:45
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 19:46
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 21:11
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 21:29
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	21-Oct, 21:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 01:46
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 01:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 01:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 01:51
	4-6km N	Recorded	8	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 02:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	8	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 02:51
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	22-Oct, 02:52
	Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K
4-6km ESE		Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 21:25
3-4km ESE		Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 21:45
3-4km ESE		Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Oct, 22:03
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Heard	15	Shots and bursts	Undetermined	Small arms	22-Oct, 16:15-16:16
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	10	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Oct, 22:53
	2-4km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Oct, 23:46
	2-4km E	Recorded	14	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Oct, 23:47
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Oct, 23:48
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	21-Oct, 23:52

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.

	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (subsequent to previous event assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Oct, 23:52
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Oct, 00:59
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Oct, 01:47
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Oct, 02:37
Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km ESE	Heard	3	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	AGL	22-Oct, 09:34
	3-4km ESE	Heard	3	Explosion	Impact (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	AGL	22-Oct, 09:34
Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	10-15km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Oct, 11:20

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).