Trends and observations

JUL-SEP 2019

50,259 ceasefire violations

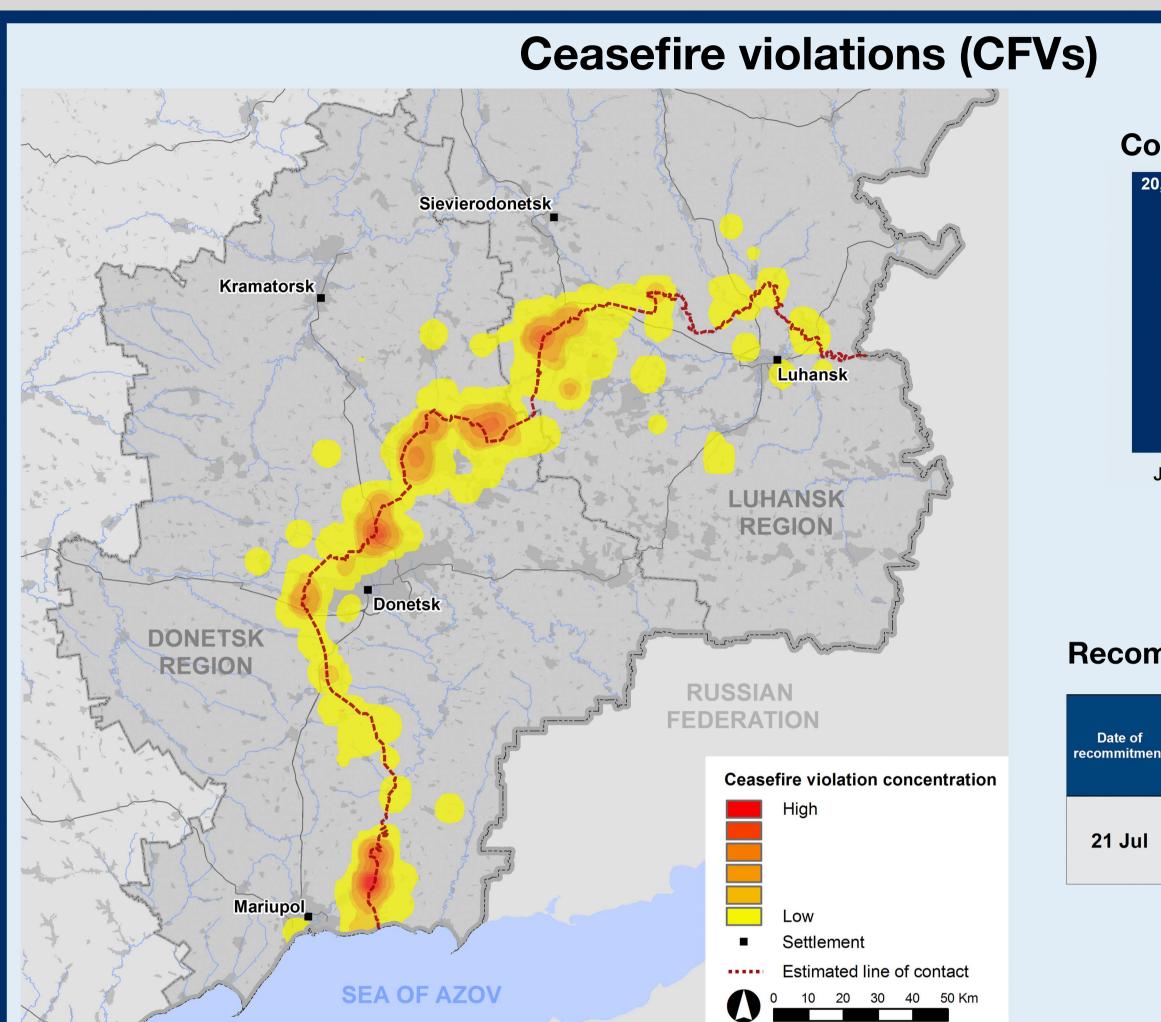
including

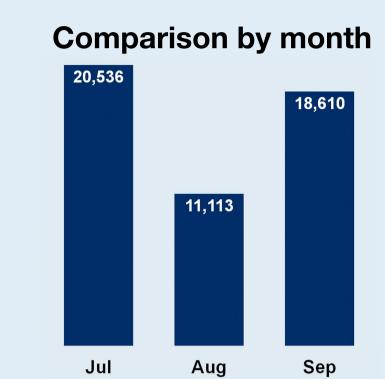
244 explosions attributable to fire from MLRS, artillery, mortars and tanks

1,034 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

293 freedom of movement restrictions*

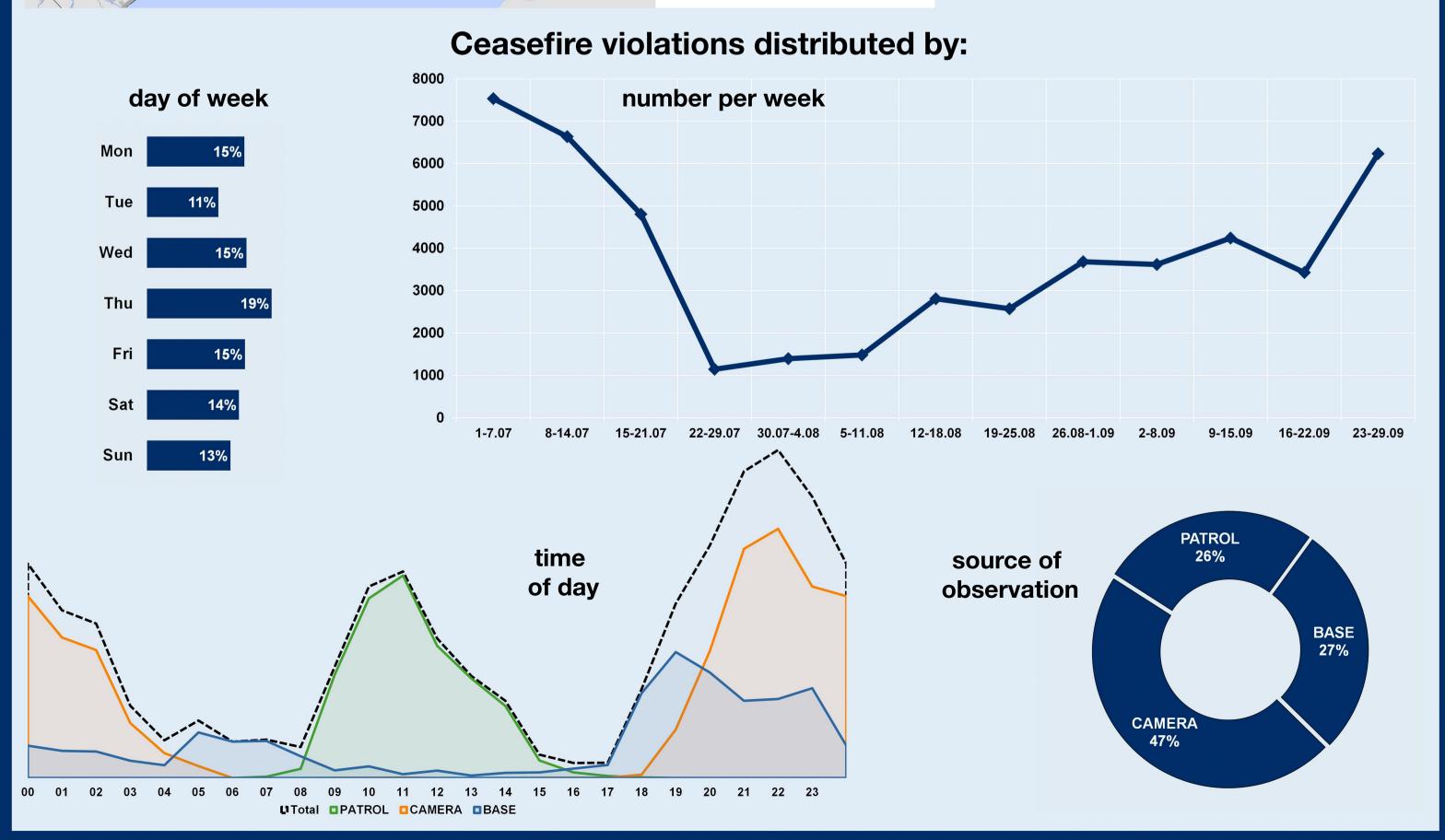
recommitment to ceasefire

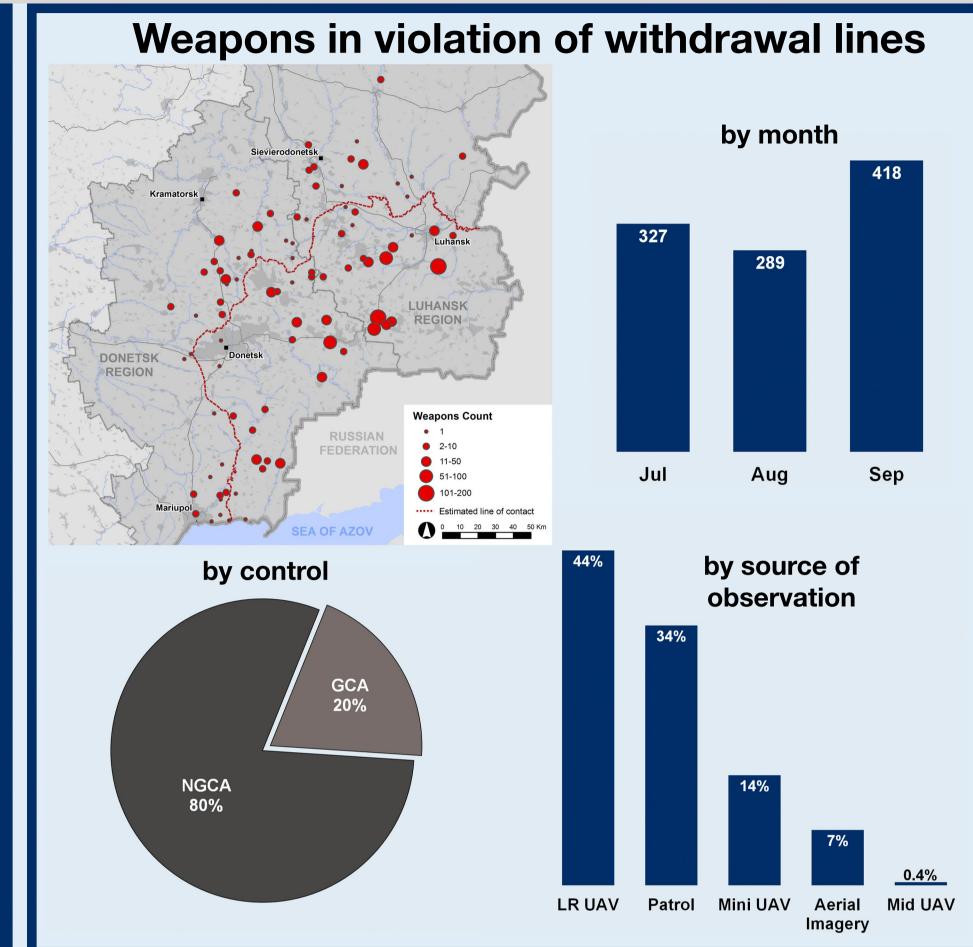


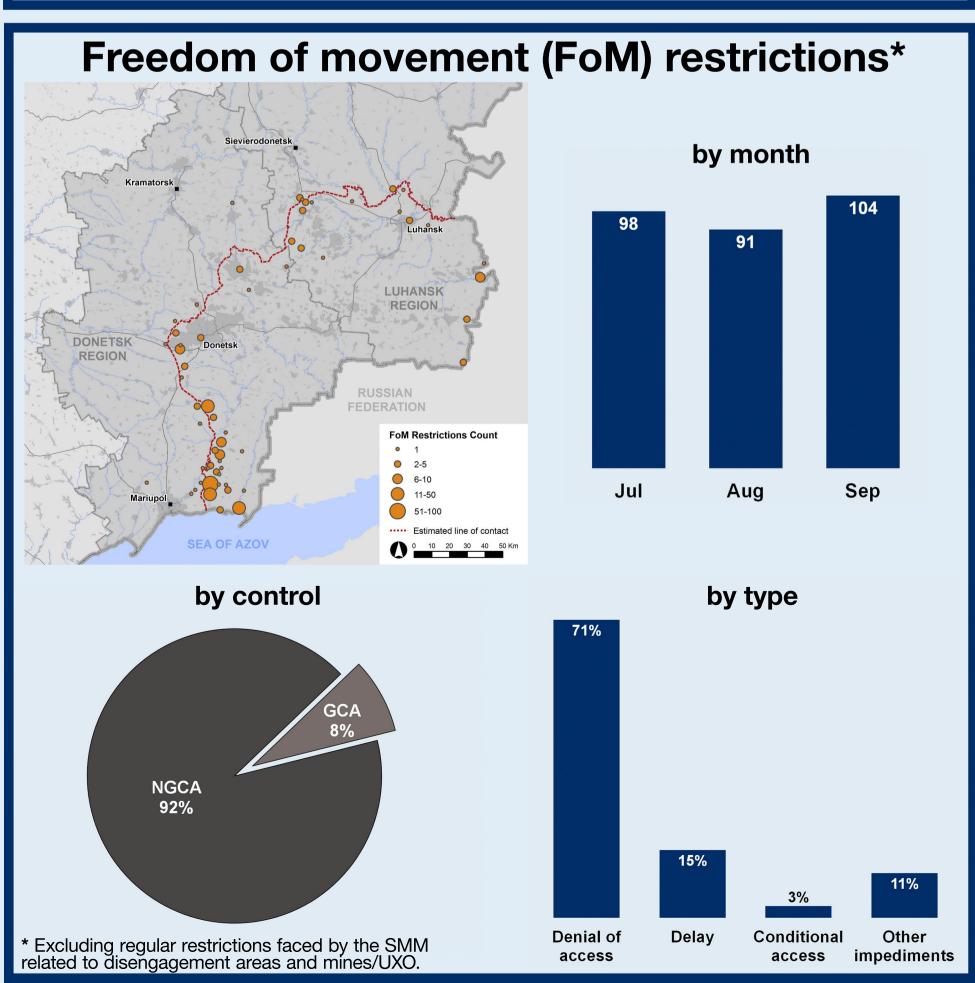


Recommitments to ceasefire

21 Jul	80%	24	40
Date of recommitment	Decrease of CFVs observed (%)	Days before number of CFVs reaches half of that prior to recommitment	Days before number of CFVs exceeds that prior to recommitment







Main trends:

In the third quarter of 2019, the number of ceasefire violations recorded along the contact line decreased compared with the second quarter of the year. The SMM registered about 41 per cent fewer ceasefire violations. In addition, the Mission recorded 86 per cent fewer explosions attributed to weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements. This decrease came as a result of the recommitment to the unlimited ceasefire which began on 21 July. However, by the end of the quarter, the number of ceasefire violations recorded had returned to the pre-commitment levels.

Most of the ceasefire violations recorded in the third quarter of 2019 were concentrated in five hotspots along the contact line, which accounted for about 92 per cent of all recorded ceasefire violations:

- 1) areas east and north-east of Mariupol,
- 2) the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area,
- 3) the Popasna-Kalynove-Pervomaisk-Zolote area,
- 4) areas south-west, south and south-east of Svitlodarsk and
- 5) the western and northern outskirts of Horlivka.

Ceasefire violations recorded outside the security zone were assessed as related to live-fire exercises. In the third quarter of 2019, the SMM recorded about 142 such ceasefire violations, about 80 per cent of which were recorded in non-government-controlled

About 60 per cent of all the ceasefire violations were recorded during the night. The primary sources of these observations were SMM cameras and monitors at forward patrol bases. During the day, most observations were made by patrols on the ground.

In the third quarter of 2019, the SMM observed 1,034 weapons in violation of the agreed withdrawal lines about 19 per cent fewer than in the second quarter of 2019. About 80 per cent of such weapons in violation were observed in non-government-controlled areas and about 20 per cent in government-controlled areas. About 66 per cent of these observations were made by unmanned aerial vehicles and other aerial imagery available to the SMM, while 34 per cent were made by patrols.

In the third quarter of 2019, the SMM encountered 293 freedom of movement restrictions not related to mines or unexploded ordnance. The vast majority of restrictions took non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (92 per cent of the total). Such incidents were concentrated in areas north of non-government-controlled Novoazovsk, as well as in non-government-controlled areas near the unsecured border with the Russian Federation.

Sources for maps: Administrative boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers -OpenStreetMap; Sea – VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other – OSCE.

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