

Daily Report 229/2020

25 September 2020¹

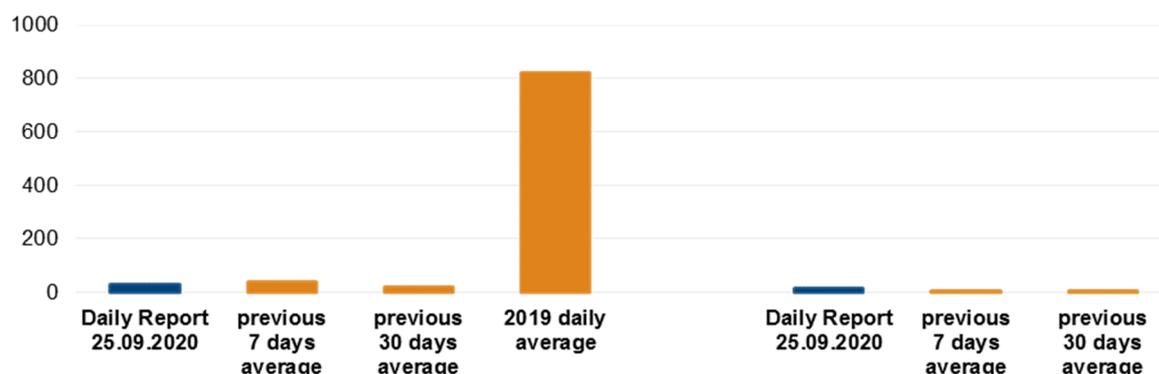
Summary

- The SMM recorded 24 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and four in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 80 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of a man who sustained injuries from the detonation of an explosive device in Donetsk city's Leninskyi district on 30 August.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. During evening hours, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people inside the latter two disengagement areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 pandemic, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 September 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions

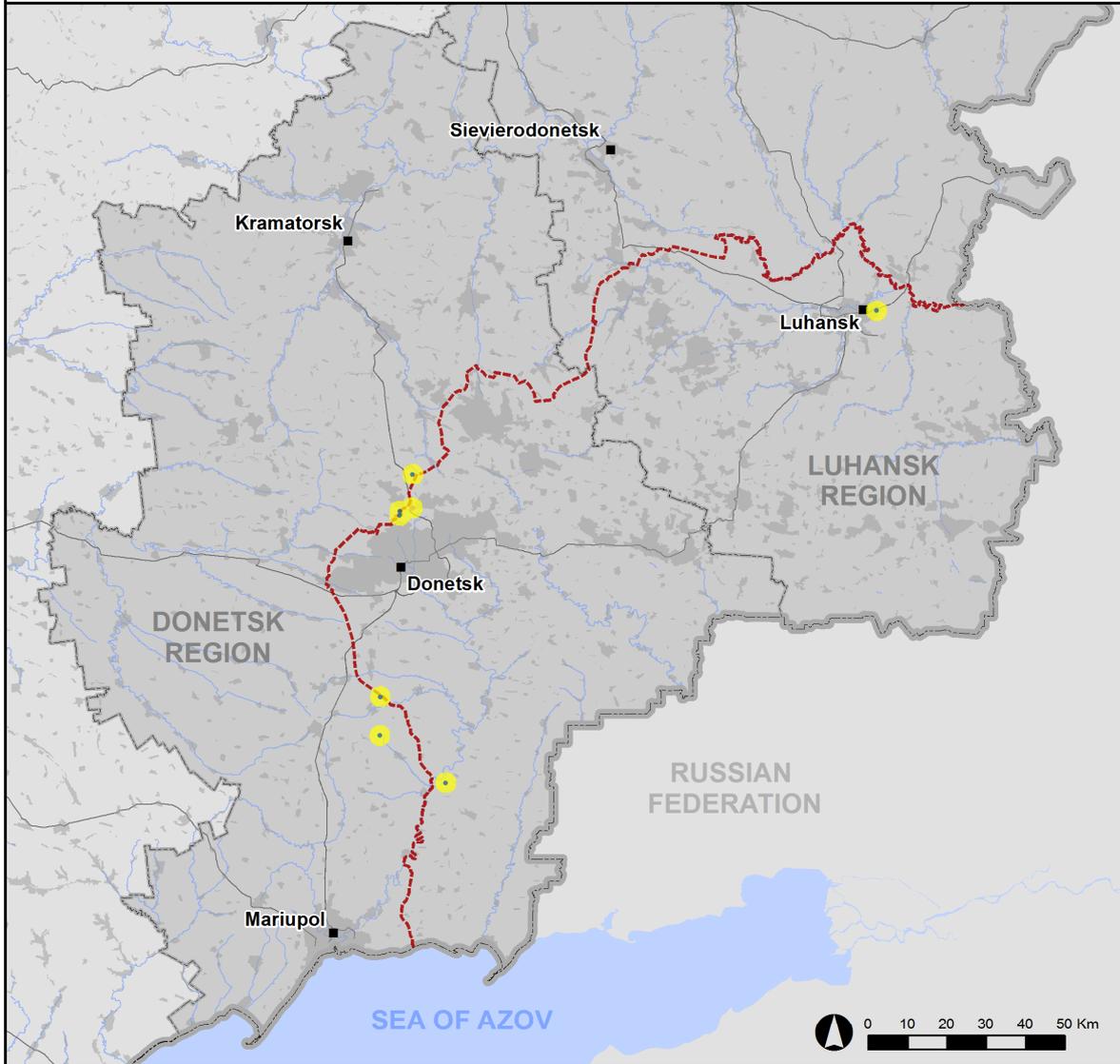
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

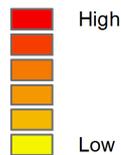


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 September 2020



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: 25/09/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 24 ceasefire violations, including ten explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), including two undetermined explosions and 14 shots and bursts of small-arms fire (see below), and in areas north-west and south-west of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), where six undetermined explosions were recorded. During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded 80 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations – all undetermined explosions in an area south-west of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk). During the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded one ceasefire violation.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 1,337 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 232 explosions, nine projectiles in flight, 13 illumination flares and 1,083 bursts and shots).

Man injured due to the detonation of an explosive device in the Leninskyi district of non-government-controlled Donetsk city

The Mission followed up on reports of a man who was injured in the detonation of an explosive device in the Leninskyi district of non-government-controlled Donetsk city on the afternoon of 30 August.

On 3 September, the Mission spoke on the phone with a woman, who introduced herself as the wife of the injured man, who said that on 30 August, while she had been at work, her husband (in his forties) had suffered severe injuries in an explosion, reportedly the detonation of an explosive device, that had occurred in their apartment at 26 Kuprina Street in the Leninskyi district of Donetsk city. She added that he had been transported to the Donetsk Regional Trauma Hospital in Donetsk city, where he had undergone surgery. On 21 September, medical staff at the same hospital told the SMM over the phone that on 30 August, a man from Donetsk city had been admitted with injuries consistent with those caused by the detonation of an explosive device. On 24 September, at 26 Kuprina Street, the Mission spoke with three neighbors of the victim (two women in their seventies and a woman in her forties), who all said that they had heard an explosion at the abovementioned address on the afternoon of 30 August and that a man (in his forties) had been injured as a result.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On the morning of 24 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 23 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside and near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one person near the area’s north-eastern corner and two people, as well as an armoured utility vehicle (Kozak-2), about 1km east-south-east of the area’s north-western corner, in Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk). It also spotted a person inside a

former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 24 September, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), two of whom walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 24 September, about 100m south of the disengagement area's southern edge, the Mission saw 28 workers with heavy construction equipment conducting works on both sides of road T-1316, including gravelling and levelling.

On the evening of 23 September, **inside the disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On the morning of 24 September, outside the disengagement area, while positioned near the SMM camera on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission observed a man in military-type clothing (visibly armed) walking on the road east towards Petrivske from the direction of Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk). About two hours later, the Mission saw a car with two men in military-type clothing traveling on the same road in the opposite direction.

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.

Aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence of 15 self-propelled howitzers in violation of withdrawal lines and 19 tanks beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, all inside a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the tables below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁵

The Mission saw armoured combat vehicles in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region and in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction work south of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above), north of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), and near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-

⁵ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

controlled, 16km north of Luhansk); repairs to power lines near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) and Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk), Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) (including to support access to agricultural land).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. During the day on 24 September, while positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions and shots and bursts of small-arms fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints to counter the COVID-19 pandemic

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational.

While at the EECP at about 10:05 and 12:40, the Mission saw in total 140 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and in total 55 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM saw four members of an international humanitarian organization transporting a woman (in her seventies) on a stretcher across the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge from government- to non-government-controlled areas. The woman's daughter (in her fifties) told the SMM that her mother had a broken hip and had been hospitalized for three days in government-controlled areas. The Mission also saw a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations at about 10:15, the Mission observed 20 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 20 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. It also saw a shuttle bus operating between the checkpoint and a bus stop south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, and two buses operating between the checkpoint and non-government-controlled Luhansk city.

In Donetsk region, at a checkpoint north-east of Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed that vehicles traveling north-east, as well as in the opposite direction, were all being disinfected by members of the armed formations.

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 Package of Measures 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, [SMM Daily Report 24 September 2020](#)). 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:

- On the night of 23-24 September, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).⁶
- On 24 September, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference on two occasions, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area near Petrivske.

⁶ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/09/2020	15	Self-propelled howitzer (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaiivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/09/2020	19	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaiivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 67 armoured combat vehicles ⁷	Aerial imagery

Other weapons⁸

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/09/2020	12	Towed artillery (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaiivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/09/2020	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
24/09/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Rozdolne (46km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	5	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle		

⁷ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁸ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

⁹ 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 24 September 2020¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	5-7km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	24-Sep, 04:45
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	24-Sep, 13:53
	2-3km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	24-Sep, 14:04
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	24-Sep, 08:59
	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 08:59
	2-3km S	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	24-Sep, 10:43
	3-4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 12:31
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 13:43
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	7km NW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 09:12-09:16
	7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 09:31-09:32
	7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 09:31-09:32
150m north of the Stanytsia Luhanska Bridge (15km NE of Luhansk)	8-10km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Sep, 11:15-11:20

¹⁰ 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.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).