

Daily Report 234/2020

1 October 2020¹

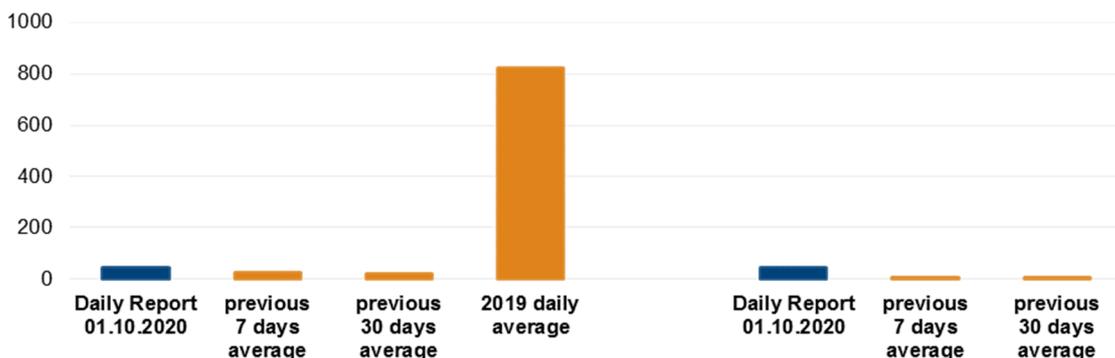
Summary

- The SMM recorded 40 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and eight in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- 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 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, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Olenivka, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 30 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

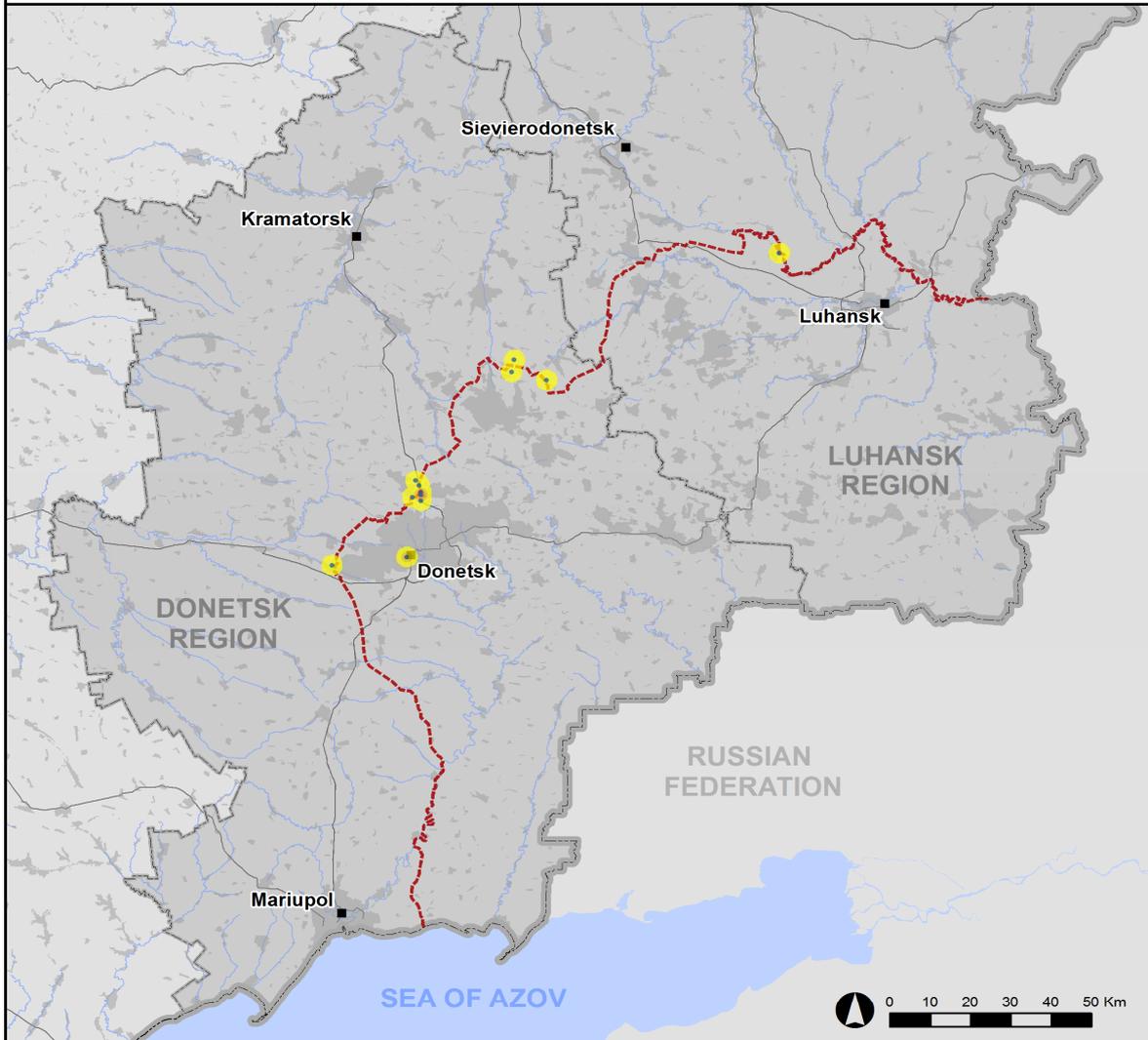
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

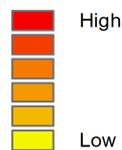


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 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: 01/10/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 40 ceasefire violations, including 37 explosions. Most of the ceasefire violations were recorded in an area south of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), including 16 undetermined explosions (see below), and in an area south-west of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, where 14 undetermined explosions occurred. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded eight ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions in an area south-east of Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

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 1,449 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 305 explosions, 11 projectiles in flight, three muzzle flashes, 14 illumination flares and 1,116 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske

On 30 September, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw four 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 29 September, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s north-eastern corner and another inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 30 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), three of whom, accompanied by a person wearing protective gloves and a face mask and two people in hazmat suits carrying spray canisters) walked inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of its southern edge, disinfected the SMM’s vehicles and then returned.

On the same day, south of the southern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM saw 14 workers with heavy construction equipment cleaning the asphalt on road T-1316, welding a fence along it and conducting groundwork, reportedly to lay electric cables.

On the evening of 29 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 30 September, outside the disengagement area, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission observed two men in military-type clothing (visibly armed), one walking eastwards along the road to Petrivske from the direction of Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk) and another walking in the opposite direction.

On the same day while positioned at four locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

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.

The SMM saw five weapons, including one surface-to-air missile system and four probable towed howitzers, beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The Mission observed infantry fighting vehicles in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

Anti-tank mines, some spotted for the first time, near Novhorodske, Donetsk region

On 28 September, in two fields located about 1.5km south of Novhorodske (government-controlled, 35km north of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 85 anti-tank mines (probable TM-62, 50 of which it spotted for the first time) part of a larger minefield of more than 500 mines, all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Reports of [20 May 2020](#) and [10 June 2020](#)).

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 non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk), Krasnyi Lyman (30km north-west of Luhansk) and Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (61km north-west of Luhansk); inspection of and repairs to power lines near Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) and Dovhe (non-government-controlled, 22km north-west of Luhansk); excavation and welding of sewage collectors near Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk). The Mission heard two explosions at an assessed range of 1-5km north-east during the works being carried out near Dolomitne (see the table below).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. On the evening of 29 September, the SMM cameras at the station and near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) recorded 18 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius from the station.

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

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission 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 10:00 and 10:55, the Mission saw in total 31 people (23 men and eight women, mixed ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and ten people (six women and four men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The SMM 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 13:45 and 14:45, the Mission observed 11 people (six women and five men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 28 people (14 women and 14 men, mixed 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.

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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage through the checkpoint after over 2.5 hours of waiting.

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.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapons | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 28/09/2020 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>) | Inside a facility near Valerianivka (51km south-west of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| | 4 | Probable towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm) | Near Novomaiorske (64km south-west of Donetsk) | |

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 28/09/2020 | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2) | Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk) | Mid-range UAV |
| 30/09/2020 | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) | | Patrol |

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

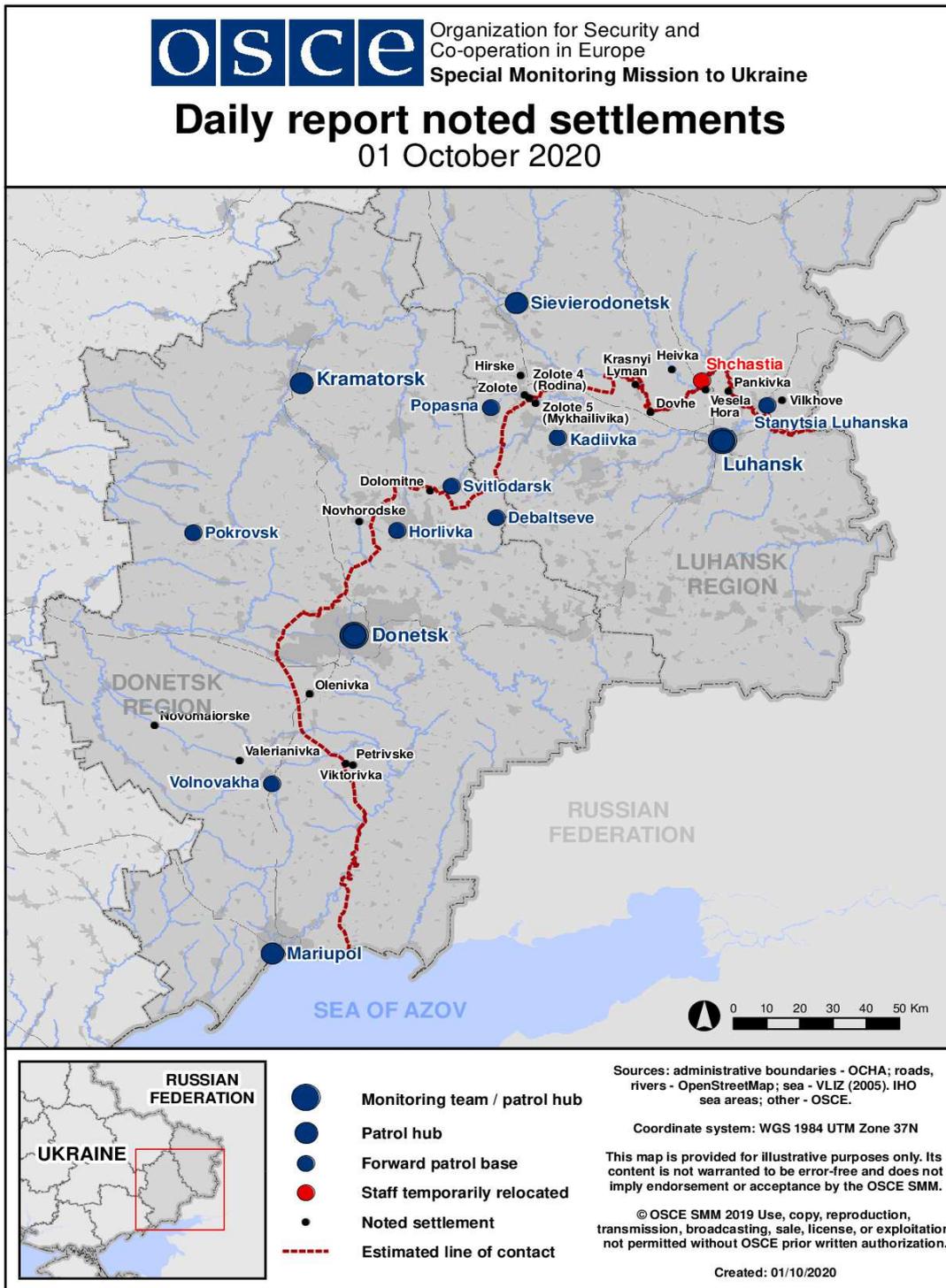
Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 September 2020⁷

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|---|----------------|----------|-----|--------------------|--|--------|---------------|
| SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 3-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | (Also observed by another SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:44 |
| | 3-5km NE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:26 |
| | 3-5km NE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:29 |
| | 3-5km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:35 |
| SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk) | 0.6-1km S | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 29-Sep, 20:26 |
| | 0.6-1km S | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | E to W (also seen by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 20:26 |
| | 0.6-1km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Impact (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 20:26 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Illumination flare | In vertical flight (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 20:52 |
| | 0.5-1km S | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:23 |
| | 2-4km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:44 |
| | 2-4km SW | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:56 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:59 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | NW to SE | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:59 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 21:59 |
| | 2-4km S | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:00 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | NW to SE | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Airburst (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |

⁷ 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.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----|------------|--|-----|---------------------|
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | NW to SE | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Airburst (also observed by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:04 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:05 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:05 |
| | 1-2km S | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 22:06 |
| SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk) | 2-4km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 30-Sep, 01:56 |
| SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk) | 3-5km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 29-Sep, 20:44 |
| About 3-5km SW of Donetsk city centre (non-government-controlled) | 3-5km SW | Heard | 14 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 30-Sep, 07:35-08:10 |
| About 1km E of Holmivskiyi (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk) | 1-2km NE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 30-Sep, 09:15 |
| | 4-5km NNE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 30-Sep, 09:30 |
| S edge of Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km NW of Luhansk) | 2-4km SE | Heard | 8 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 30-Sep, 11:16-11:31 |

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁸



⁸ 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).