

Daily Report 164/2021

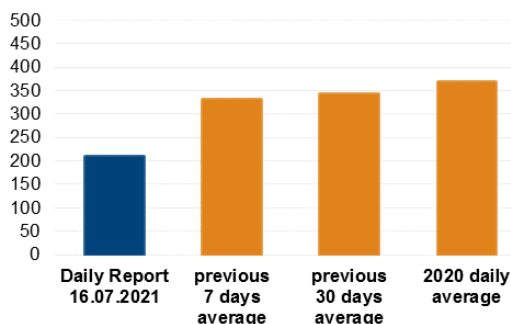
16 July 2021¹

Summary

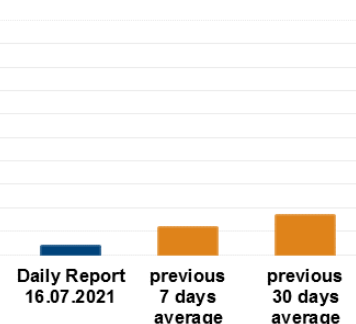
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 115 ceasefire violations, including three explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 364 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 95 ceasefire violations, including 15 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 608 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded one explosion inside the area near Zolote and multiple ceasefire violations close to it.
- The Mission saw a multiple launch rocket system in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The Mission observed no change in the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at four checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region, of which two in southern Donetsk region, and at a border crossing point outside of government control in Luhansk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 15 July 2021. 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.

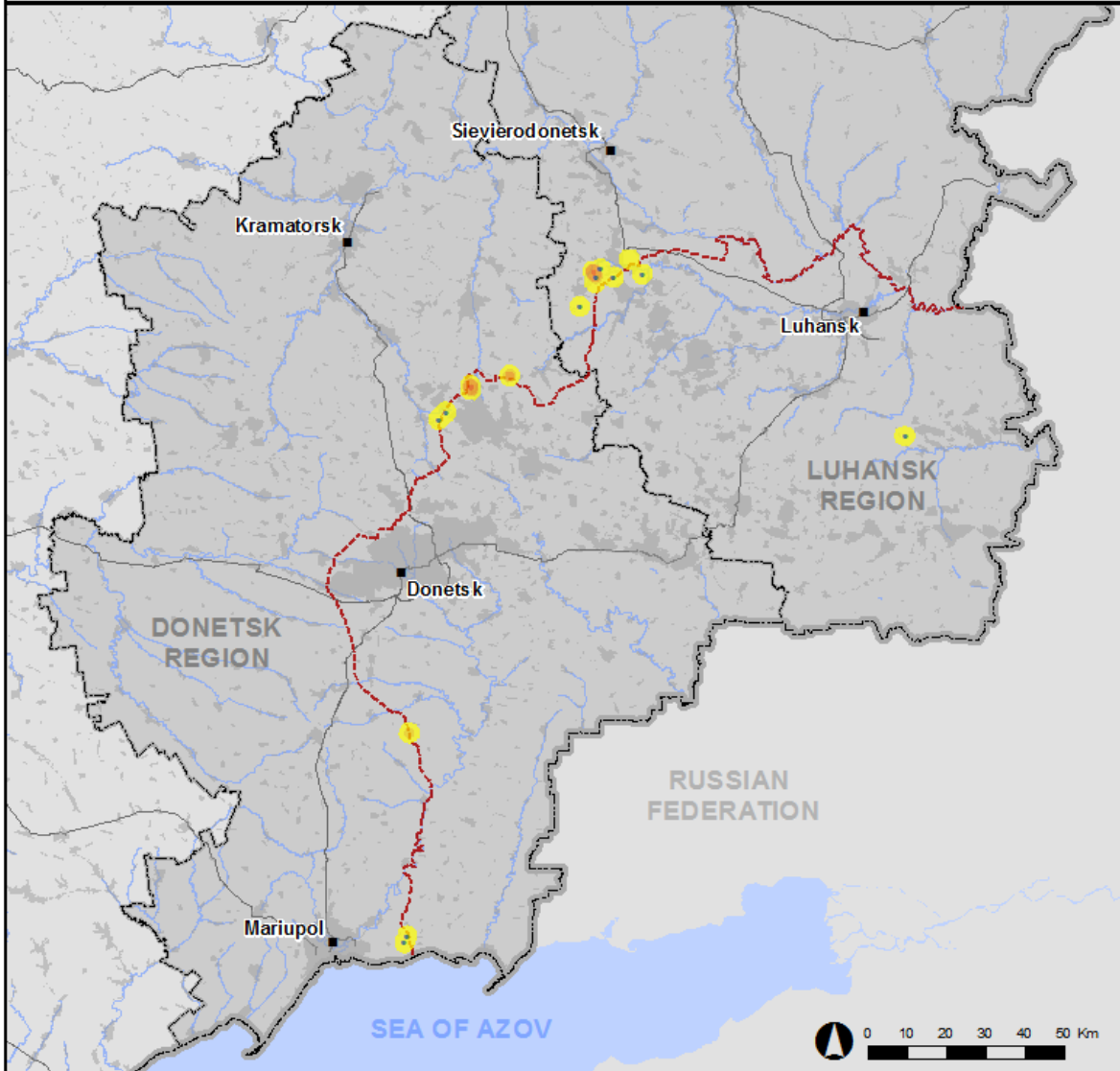
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

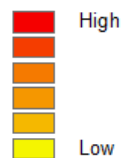


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 15 July 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: 16/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 115 ceasefire violations, including three explosions (one impact and two undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at easterly directions of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and in an area west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 364 ceasefire violations, the majority of which again occurred near Maiorsk and near Svitlodarsk.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 95 ceasefire violations, including 15 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas close to the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 608 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional 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 44,702 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,293 explosions, 7,913 projectiles in flight, 253 muzzle flashes, 141 illumination flares and at least 23,102 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On 14 July, while positioned on the southern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission observed a non-SMM unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying above the area at an altitude of about 150m, about 300m north of the Mission's position, despite the ban on the operation of any aerial vehicles included in the 22 July 2020 Trilateral Contact Group decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

On 15 July, while positioned about 1.5km south-east of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk), the Mission heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-5km north-east, assessed as inside the area.

On the evening of 14 July, the SMM camera on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) recorded two projectiles at an assessed range of 3-5km east-south-east. On the night of 14-15 July, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one projectile in flight at an assessed range of 3-5km east-north-east.

On the evening of 14 July and night of 14-15 July, while on the northern edge of Popasna, the SMM heard seven undetermined explosions at assessed ranges of 3-6km east and east-north-east and 77 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire at assessed ranges of 3-5km east and east-north-east.

During the day on 15 July, while positioned in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km east.

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

All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 15 July, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission saw seven 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 disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area.

On the night of 14-15 July, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded 13 projectiles at an assessed range of 3-4km south-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) but within 5km of its periphery.

On 15 July, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw a multiple launch rocket system in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is further proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw three tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM saw three armoured reconnaissance vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

On 14 July, in Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted a two-storey house with a collapsed roof, assessed as used by the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as, in a field about 15m further east, an impact crater (not visible in imagery from 17 May 2021). The Mission assessed the damage and the crater as recent and as having been caused by artillery rounds from an unknown direction.

Presence of anti-tank mines near Vodiane, Donetsk region

On 14 July, in a field about 1km south-east of Vodiane, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted five probable anti-tank mines, part of a larger minefield, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 20 May 2021](#).)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The SMM monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable repairs to power lines near Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also 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. At the latter checkpoint, the Mission observed two trucks and one civilian vehicle, all bearing the logos of an international organization, traveling towards government-controlled areas. (See [SMM Daily Report of 15 July 2021](#).)

Border areas outside government control

While positioned at a border crossing point⁶ near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed two cars (with “LPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (with “LPR” plates) and ten pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time period, the SMM saw 60 cars (including 28 with “LPR” plates) and 50 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine. After about fifteen minutes, a member of the armed formations asked the SMM to leave the area.*

While positioned at the pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 45 minutes, the Mission observed three pedestrians (one woman in her twenties and two men in their forties) entering Ukraine and four pedestrians (two women in their teens and twenties and two men in their forties) exiting Ukraine.

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

Between 14 and 15 July, the SMM monitored areas along the coast of the Black Sea near Ochakivske (56km south-west of Kherson), Krasnoznamianka (58km south-west of Kherson), Oleksiivka (48km south-west of Kherson), Lymanivka (53km south-west of Kherson), Obloi (57km south-west of Kherson), Zburivka (57km south-west of Kherson) and Skadovsk (62km south-east of Kherson), and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM observed a gathering in Kyiv

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.

In Kyiv, in front of the Parliament building at 5 Mykhaila Hrushevskoho Street, the SMM observed about 100 people (mixed genders and ages) protesting against draft amendments to the State budget which would impact the law “On Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language”. It saw some of the people carrying flags and wearing clothing with the insignia of the Svoboda party and the National Corps and Democratic Axe movements, as well as two flags of Ukraine. It also saw about 70 law enforcement representatives (including five women). During the gathering, the SMM observed a short scuffle between one of the participants and law enforcement representatives.

The SMM continued monitoring in Lviv, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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 Coordination (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.

Denials:

- Near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations asked the Mission to leave the area, citing “security concerns”.
- At a checkpoint near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations, two of which were visibly armed, denied the SMM passage westwards, citing “security concerns”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk) two armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage eastwards into the settlement, citing “the presence of a sniper in the area”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), three armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the border with the Russian Federation, citing “the need for permission from superiors”.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations asked the Mission to leave the area, citing “a lack of prior co-ordination with his superiors”.

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.

Delay:

- At the EECP near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a representative of the Ukrainian Armed Forces only allowed the Mission passage eastwards towards the contact line after about 30 minutes, citing "an order from superiors".

Other impediments:⁷

- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk).
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during one flight each over areas near Krynychne (government-controlled, 67km north-east of Donetsk), over areas near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) and during two flights over areas near Vrubivka (government-controlled, 72km west of Luhansk).
- The SMM cancelled the launch of a mid-range UAV flight due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming near Krynychne (government-controlled, 67km north-east of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/7/2021	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is further proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014,	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/7/2021	3	Tank (undetermined variant)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske	Aerial imagery

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/7/2021	2	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Krynychne (67km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1		Near Roty (66km north-east of Donetsk)	

⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

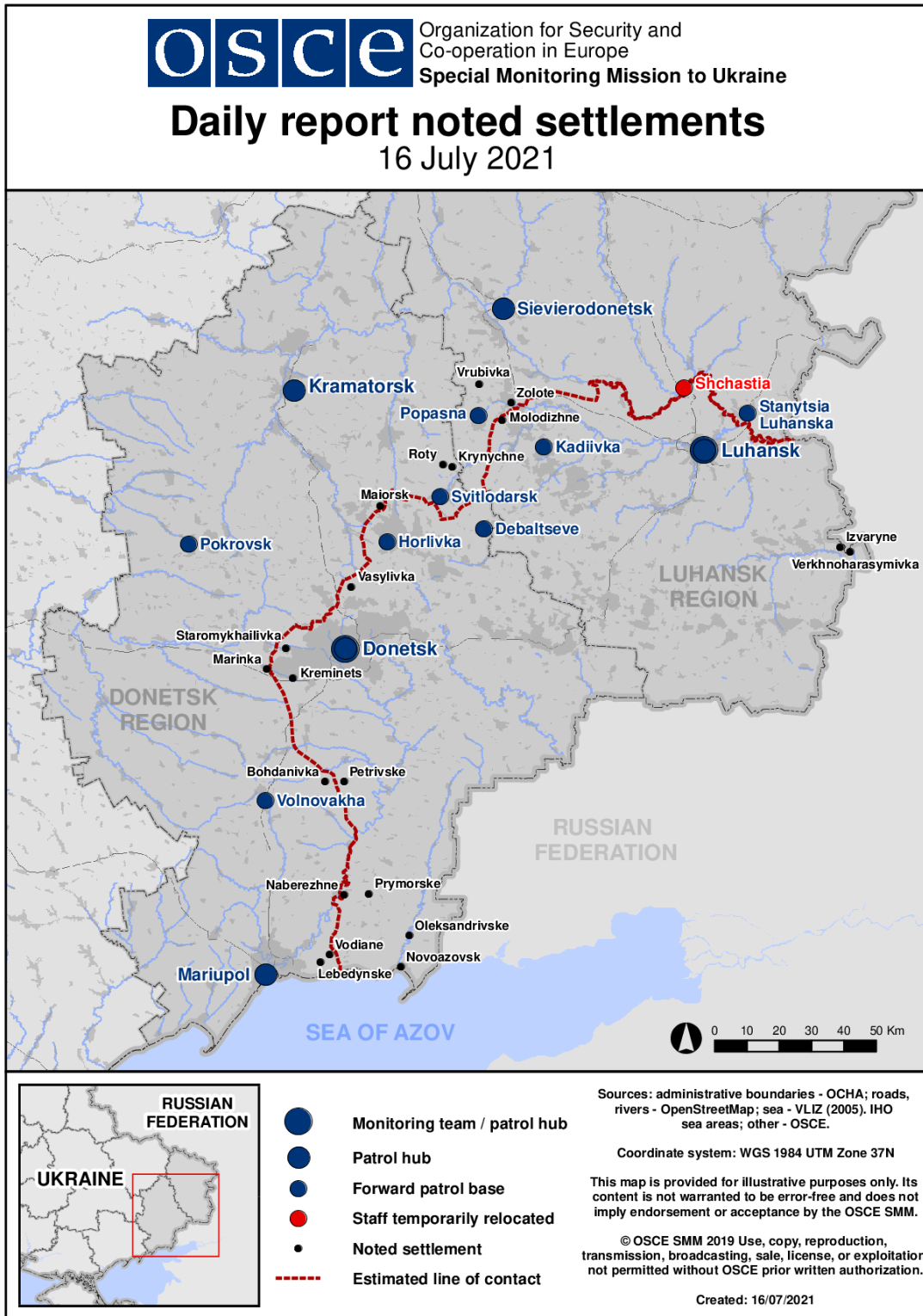
Table of ceasefire violations as of 15 July 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Recorded	10	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	14-Jul, 23:08
	3-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	14-Jul, 23:09
	3-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	15-Jul, 00:23
	3-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	15-Jul, 01:03
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Recorded	22	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Jul, 21:38
	2-3km E	Recorded	8	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Jul, 21:39
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	22	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Jul, 23:14
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	24	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Jul, 23:15
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Jul, 23:16
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km W	Recorded	7	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Jul, 00:51
	5-7km W	Recorded	15	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Jul, 00:52
About 7.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Jul, 10:10
	1-2km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Jul, 10:51
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	15-Jul, 10:59
	4-5km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Jul, 10:59
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Jul, 21:59
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	15-Jul, 00:52
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-6km ENE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Jul, 21:21-21:25
	3-5km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Jul, 21:47-22:00
	3-5km E	Heard	19	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	14-Jul, 21:47-22:00
	3-4km ENE	Heard	8	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	14-Jul, 23:08-23:09
	5-6km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Jul, 23:10
	3-4km ENE	Heard	10	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	14-Jul, 23:15
	3-4km ENE	Heard	37	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	15-Jul, 00:52-00:54
	3-4km ENE	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	15-Jul, 00:52-00:53
1km NNE of Andriivka (non-government-controlled, 26km SE of Luhansk)	5-10km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Jul, 11:32-11:33
3.7km ENE of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	12-15km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Jul, 11:45

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
Zolote5/Mykhailivka (non-government controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Jul, 12:28
1.5km SE of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Jul, 14:25

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).