

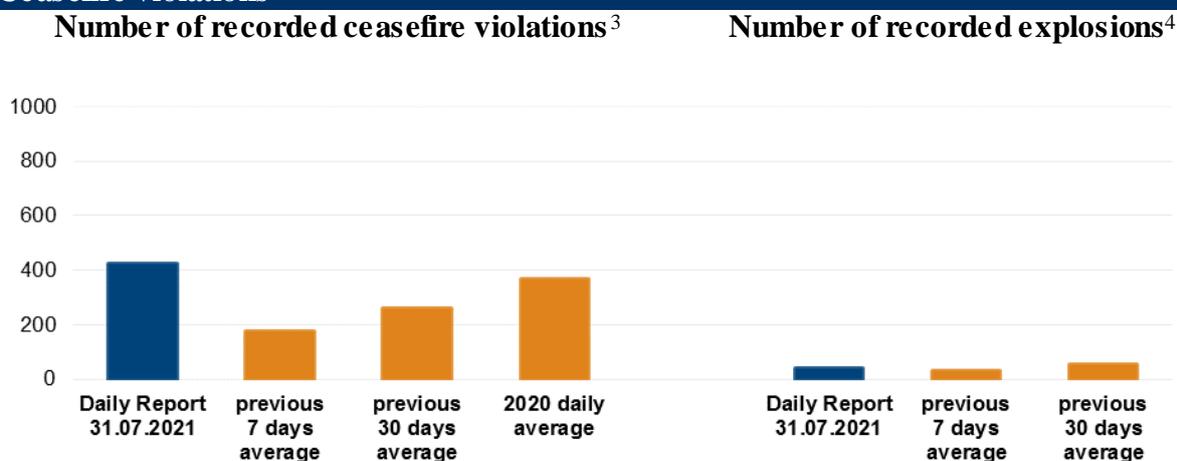
Daily Report 177/2021

31 July 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 408 ceasefire violations, including 32 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 173 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 17 ceasefire violations, including seven explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 25 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside and near the disengagement area near Petrivske and near the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska and Zolote.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and five corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited four border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation.
- The SMM monitored a gathering and a counter-protest in Kyiv.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region, and at a border crossing point near Izvaryne, Luhansk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



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

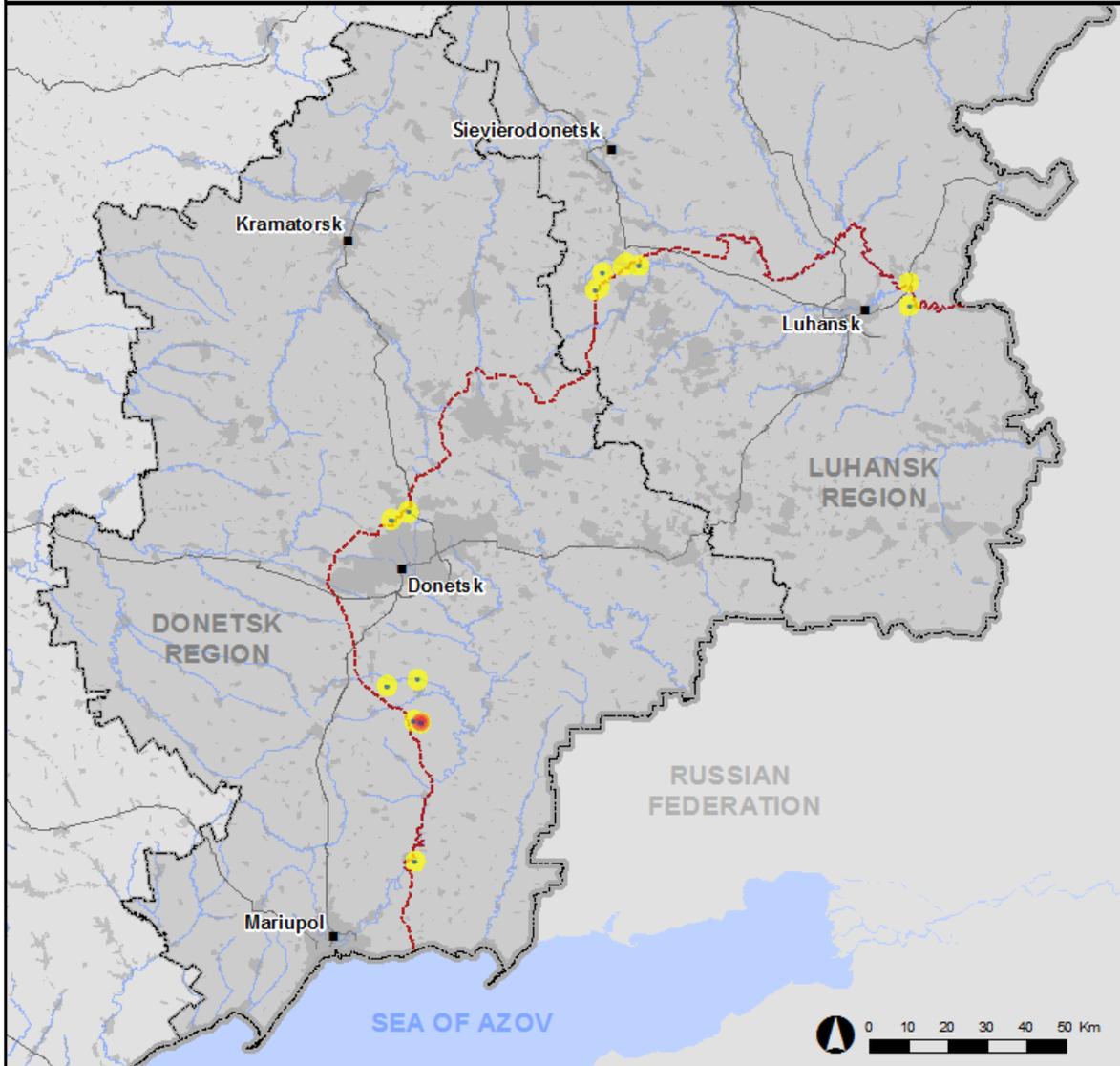
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 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: 31/07/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 408 ceasefire violations, including 32 explosions (two impacts and 30 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area east of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 173 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred near the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 17 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions. Most ceasefire violations occurred in areas north and west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 25 ceasefire violations.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) 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 47,691 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 13,731 explosions, 9,064 projectiles in flight, 262 muzzle flashes, 175 illumination flares and at least 24,459 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On the night of 29-30 July, while on the eastern edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission heard two undetermined explosions and one shot of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** but within 5km of its periphery.

During the day on 30 July, while positioned inside the area, the Mission saw three 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).

On the night of 29-30 July, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one projectile in flight and two illumination flares at an assessed range of 1-3km east and east-south-east. During the day on 30 July, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission heard four undetermined explosions and six bursts and shots of small-arms fire. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 30 July, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement 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 disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area.

On 30 July, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard and saw one explosion assessed as an impact at an assessed distance of 2km south-south-west and assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**. While positioned at the same location, the SMM heard 19 explosions (one impact and 18 undetermined) and 376 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, all at an assessed range of 2-3km south-south-east and assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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 SMM 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 areas, the SMM spotted six anti-tank guns, 20 howitzers and 61 tanks, all in two training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

On 28 July, about 4km east-north-east of Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk), in positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person in military clothing, assessed as a soldier of the Ukrainian Armed Forces aiming a rifle at the UAV. (On the same day, small-arms-fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-UAV in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 29 July 2021](#).)

On 30 July, while positioned on the west-north-western edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission observed a non-SMM UAV flying at an altitude of about 200m, despite the ban on the operation of any aerial vehicles included in the 22 July 2020 TCG decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

The Mission also saw 14 armoured combat vehicles in a compound in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of an unexploded ordnance near Donetsk city, Donetsk region

About 30m north-east of SMM camera site at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the Mission observed for the first time a piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO) lying on the ground, assessed as 120mm mortar round.

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire to enable maintenance of the phenol reservoir pipeline near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM 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. While at the EECP near Zolote, the Mission observed three workers with an excavator clearing vegetation nearby.

Border areas outside government control

On 29 July, while at a border crossing point⁶ near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 50 minutes, the Mission observed eight cars (including two with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates), three buses (including two with “DPR” plates and about 90 passengers in total, mixed genders and ages) and 17 people (eight women and eight men, mixed ages and one child) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM also observed 19 cars (including 15 with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates), and a bus (with “DPR” plates and about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 40 minutes, the Mission observed 15 cars (including 12 with “DPR” plates), ten covered cargo trucks (including four with “DPR” plates) and 60 pedestrians (24 women and 26 men, mixed ages, and ten children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM observed 12 cars (including ten with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates and about 60 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and eight pedestrians (four women and four men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

On 30 July, while at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission observed two cars, one covered cargo truck (with “LPR” plates) and one bus (with “LPR” plates and about 45 passengers, mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 28 cars (including 11 with “LPR” plates), one bus and 18 pedestrians (six women and six men, mixed ages and two children) exiting Ukraine. After about 15 minutes, an armed member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

While at the pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 40 minutes, the SMM observed 12 people (six women and six men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine, as well as five women (mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the Mission also monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation near Chervona Zoria (84km east of Donetsk), Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), Ternove (57km east of Donetsk) and Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), and observed no change in the security situation.

SMM monitored a gathering and a counter-protest 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.

On 30 July, at 13:00, in front of the building of the Office of the President of Ukraine at 11 Bankova Street, the SMM observed about 150 people, some of whom carried flags and wore clothing with insignia of the organizations *Brotherhood* and *Tradition and Order*, protesting against an event in support of the human rights of LGBTI people, which was scheduled to take place that day in front of the Office of the President. After about 90 minutes, law enforcement officers told the crowd to leave the area, reportedly because of a bomb threat. The relocation of the protest to a venue nearby led to several scuffles between law enforcement officers and some members of the group. The Mission saw that both sides used pepper spray and observed that two protesters were injured and four others detained. The situation subsequently calmed down and the protest continued for another three hours, with occasional arguments between protesters and law enforcement officers. At around 17:00, the event in support of the human rights of LGBTI people started and the Mission observed about 300 people (mixed genders, mainly in their twenties) and a calm situation. During the protest, the SMM observed around 600 law enforcement officers at the site.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, 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, 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.

Denial:

- While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), an armed member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, citing “orders from 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, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other obstacles.

Delays:

- At a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), four armed members of the armed formations only allowed the SMM passage east towards the settlement after about 20 minutes of waiting, citing “the processing of passengers through the checkpoint”.
- At a checkpoint near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations only allowed the Mission passage west towards the settlement after about 40 minutes of waiting. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

Other impediments:⁷

- Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near government-controlled Vozdvyzhenka (formerly Krasnyi Pakhar, 66km north-east of Donetsk) and Smolianynove (61km north-west of Luhansk).

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

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
29/7/2021	22	Tank (15 T-64 and seven T-72)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk), where the Mission also spotted 73 armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns. ⁸	
	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	6	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	39	Tank (23 T-64 and 16 T-72)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/7/2021	12	Armoured personnel carrier (two BTR-70, two BTR-80 and eight MT-LB)	In a compound in the Budionnivskyi district of Donetsk city (4km south of Donetsk city centre)	Mini-UAV
	1	Trench digger (MDK-3)		
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BTS-4A)		

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

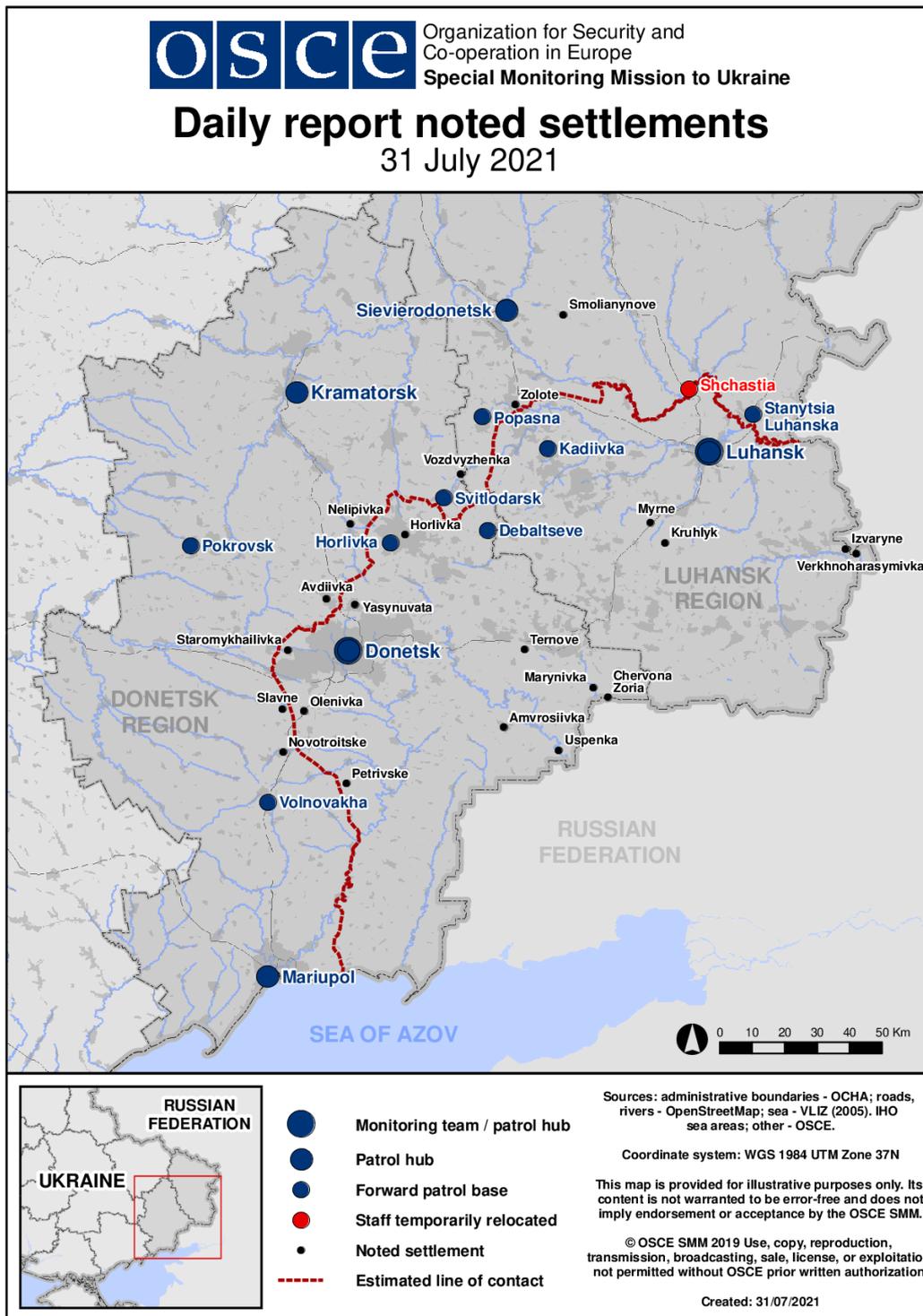
Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 July 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-3km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 01:29
About 2km S of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 12:52
	3-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 13:03
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 12:54
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 15:10-15:41
	2-3km SSE	Heard	166	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	30-Jul, 15:10-15:41
	2-3km SSE	Heard	15	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	30-Jul, 15:10-15:41
	2-3km SSE	Heard	183	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	30-Jul, 15:10-15:41
	2-3km SSE	Heard	12	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	30-Jul, 15:10-15:41
	2-3km SSE	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Impact (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 15:25
	2km SSW	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Impact (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 15:35
	2-3km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 15:52
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	8-10km NNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 09:12-09:18
	8-10km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 09:12-09:18
	10-12km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 09:12-09:18
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 00:36
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 00:45
	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 01:32
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	7-10km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jul, 01:10
	2-3km S	Heard	1	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	30-Jul, 03:01

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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SW edge of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	2-4km NNW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	30-Jul, 08:46-08:48
	2-4km NNW	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	30-Jul, 08:52
Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km W of Luhansk)	5-10km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jul, 08:55
E edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	1-2km SE	Heard	2	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	30-Jul, 09:17
SW edge of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	30-Jul, 15:40

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).