



Daily Report 186/2020

6 August 2020¹

Summary

- From 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 251 ceasefire violations.
- For the first time since the Mission began systematic data collection, in the reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted, during evening hours, three trucks and a minivan driving on a dirt road in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region near the border with the Russian Federation where there are no border crossing facilities.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the latter two areas, an SMM long-range UAV observed people during evening and night hours.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the repairs to, maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission visited four border crossing points in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at an entry-exit checkpoint in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near Korsun and Kreminets, and at a border crossing point near non-government controlled Izvaryne.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 5 August 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

Ceasefire violations²³

For the first time since the Mission began systematic data collection, it recorded no ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.⁴ In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and two in Luhansk region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) 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 recorded a total of 251 ceasefire violations, both in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 45 explosions, two projectiles in flight, three illumination flares and 201 bursts and shots of small-arms fire).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside **the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) and their checkpoint south of it.

On the evening of 4 August, inside **the disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, near the area’s north-eastern corner. Also inside the disengagement area, the same UAV spotted two people near former positions of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 5 August, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), four of whom it saw entering and walking about 350m north inside the disengagement area and then returning.

On the night between 4 and 5 August, inside **the disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, on a path about 150m north of the area’s southern edge and about 1.5km east of its western edge.

On 5 August, while positioned at two locations close to the disengagement area near Petrivske, 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.

² In the reporting period, the SMM did not record ceasefire violations, therefore the report does not contain the chart presenting trends and map of ceasefire violations.

³ During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and near Shyrokyne were not operational.

⁴ The SMM’s systematic data compilation began on 1 March 2015. Previous ceasefire violation information can be found in daily reports prior to that date.

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

The Mission saw four weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region and 11 weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage areas at a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the tables below).

Weapons storage sites

At a weapons permanent storage site in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region
5 August

The SMM noted that four mortars (2B11 *Sani*, 120mm) were again missing.

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At three heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region
5 August

The SMM noted that five self-propelled mortars (2S9 *Nona*, 120mm) were present and three multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) were again missing, and that three self-propelled howitzers (2S3 *Akatsiya*, 152mm), one surface-to-air missile system (9K35 *Strela-10*) and seven tanks (T-80) were missing for the first time.

Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone⁷

On 3 August, near a treeline about 3.5km north-east of Novoselivka (government-controlled, 31km north of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time a square pit (about 4 square meters in size), assessed as an extension to an existing trench (not seen in imagery from 24 June 2020).

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in the security zone on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk region, including in and near residential areas (for further details, see the table below).

Anti-tank mines near Shyroka Balka and Dokuchaievsk

On 3 August, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted at least 400 anti-tank mines in a field about 2km south of Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 10 June 2020](#)).

On 4 August, an SMM mini-UAV [again](#) spotted 20 anti-tank mines laid across a road about 4km south-west of Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

SMM facilitation of repairs to as well as maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

⁶ The SMM visited areas previously holding weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localised ceasefires to enable preparations of construction works south of the disengagement area near Zolote (see above), as well as near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), south of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

The Mission also continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection and maintenance of railway tracks near government-controlled Vilkhove (22km north-east of Luhansk) and government-controlled Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk); inspection, repairs and maintenance to power lines in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km north-west of Luhansk) and near Smile (non-government-controlled, 31km north-west of Luhansk); repairs to a gas pipeline between government-controlled Zalizne (formerly Artemove, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and Nelipivka (40km north-east of Donetsk); repairs to water pipelines in the areas of non-government-controlled Holmivskyi (49km north-east of Donetsk), Horlivka (39km north-east of Donetsk) and Toretsk (formerly Dzerzhynsk, government-controlled, 43km north of Donetsk); as well as demining activities near government-controlled Orikhove (north-west of Luhansk) and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and in non-government-controlled Krasnyi Yar (12km north-east of Luhansk).

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

Border areas outside government control

On 4 August, at 22:07, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three military-type trucks and a minivan stationary on a dirt road about 3.5km north-east of Manych (76km east of Donetsk) and about 200m west of the border, in an area where there are no border crossing facilities. At 22:12 and 22:18, respectively, the minivan as well as one of the aforementioned trucks began driving in a south-westerly direction, away from the border, on the same road. Also at 22:18, the other two trucks began driving in a north-easterly direction on the same road reaching the border at 22:36 (for previous observations near the border with the Russian Federation, see [SMM Daily Report 6 June 2020](#) and [SMM Daily Report 10 June 2020](#)).

On 5 August, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about one hour, the SMM saw sixteen cars (seven of which with “DPR” plates), a truck, a minivan (with “DPR” plates), a bus (with passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 28 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages, two children) entering Ukraine. It also saw 11 cars (six with “DPR” plates), a minivan (with “DPR” plate), two trucks (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates and passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 10 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

At a pedestrian border crossing point near Ulianiivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission noted that there was no one present and the border crossing point appeared to be closed.

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 35 minutes, the SMM saw one car, one truck (with “LPR” plates) and 18 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. The Mission also saw 52 cars (25 of which with “LPR” plates), one covered-cargo truck, one bus and 50 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to exit Ukraine.*

At a border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) the SMM noted that it was unmanned.

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

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the 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 09:00 and 15:10, the Mission saw in total about 250 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to enter government-controlled areas and about 160 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) in total queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission saw that a golf cart was transporting people between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

Near the EECP, the Mission spoke to three people (a man, a woman and a child, 14 years old) who said they had spent the night inside the disengagement area, while trying to obtain documents for their son after they had not been allowed to enter non-government-controlled areas at the checkpoint of the armed formations.

While at the checkpoint of the armed formations at about 11:40 and 13:30, the SMM saw 35 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 35 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

The Mission 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 and 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, 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.

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.

Denial of access:

- Near Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage, referring to exercises in the area.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), after about 5 minutes, a member of the armed formations asked the SMM to leave the area.

Conditional:

- At a checkpoint south-east of Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), on two occasions, members of the armed formations only allowed the SMM passage after inspecting its trailer.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
04/08/2020	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a compound in Komisarivka (60km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage areas

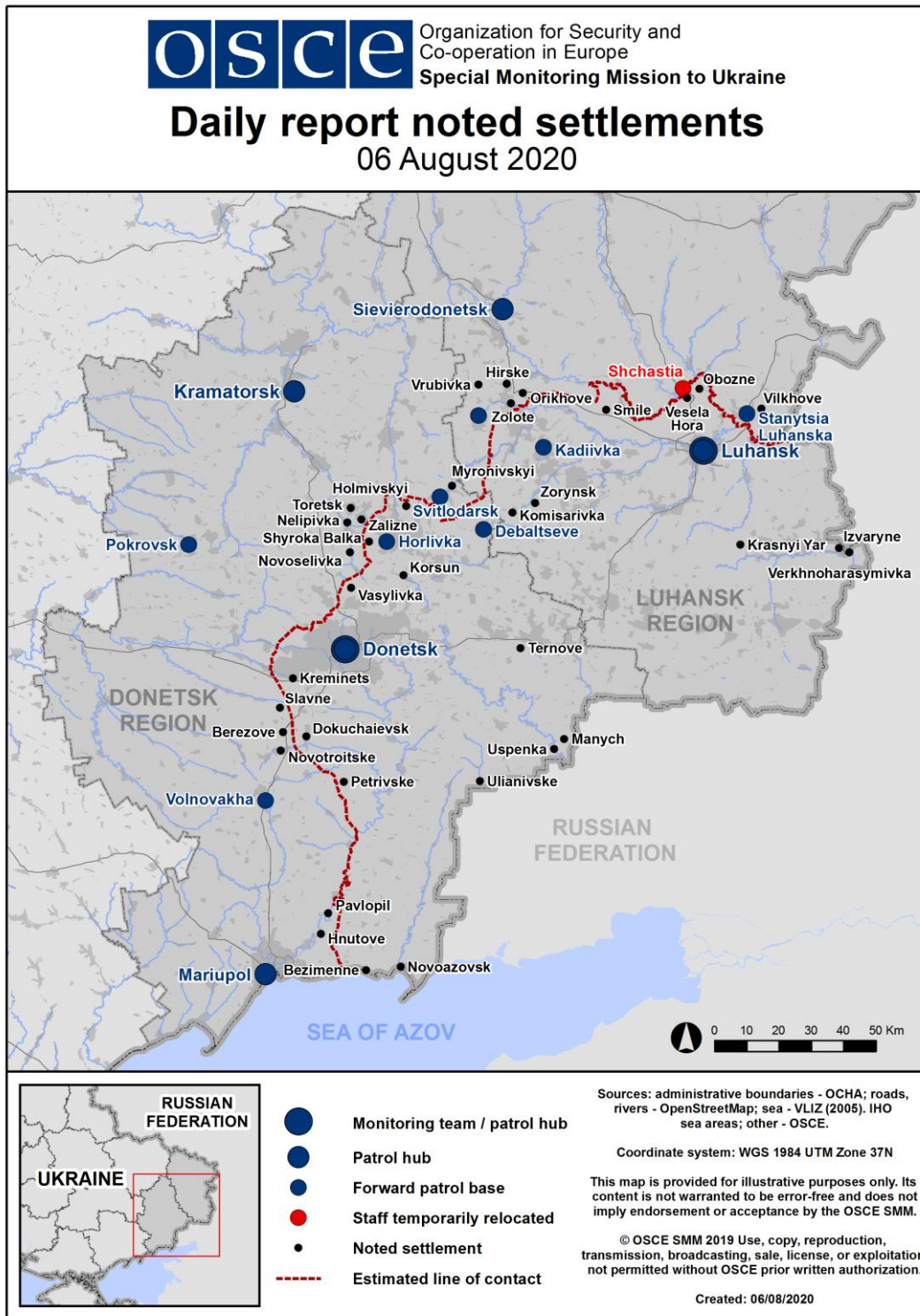
Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
05/08/2020	5	Tank (T-72)	At a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	6	Mortar (type undetermined, five 120m and one 82mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
03/08/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Myronivskiyi (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
04/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a residential area on the western edge of Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near and in residential areas of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	
05/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area in Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
03/08/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Obozne (18km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
04/08/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area on the western edge of Novoazovsk (102km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near a residential area on the northern edge of Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area on the eastern edge of Zorynsk (54km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).