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

Trends and observations
APR-JUN 2021

26,757 ceasefire violations

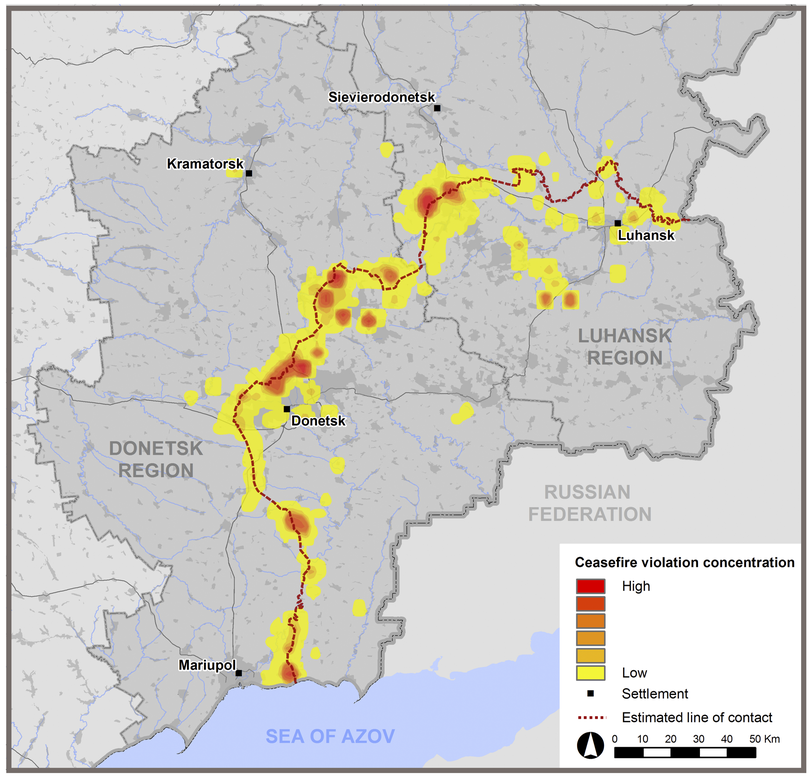
including **212** explosions attributable to fire from artillery, mortars and tanks

673 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

171 freedom of movement restrictions*

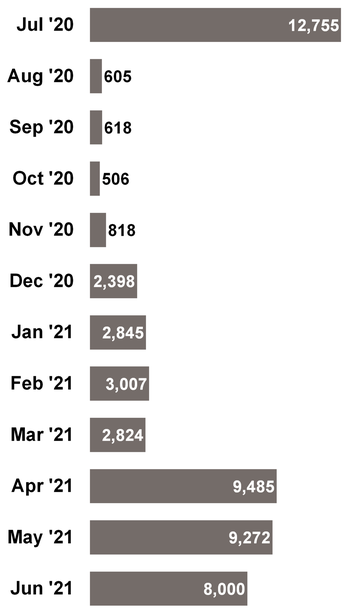
30 civilian casualties

Ceasefire violations (CFVs)

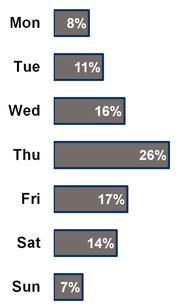


Ceasefire violations distributed by:

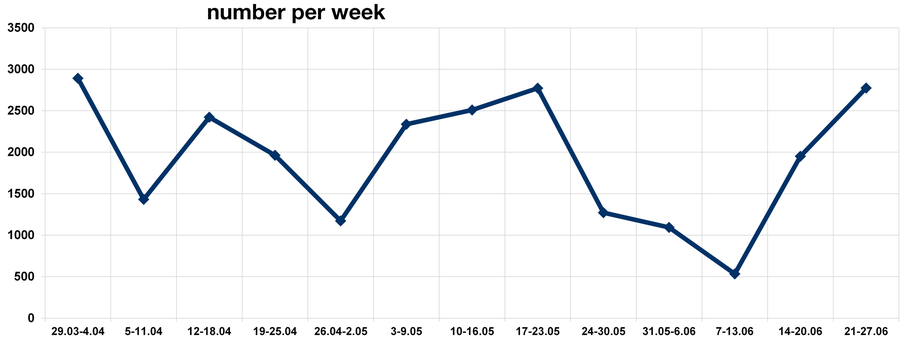
number per month (CFVs during last 12 months)



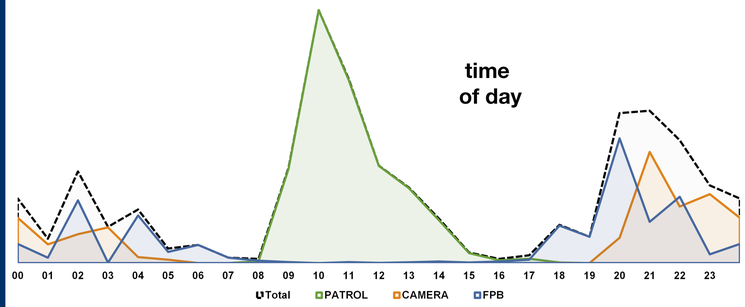
day of week



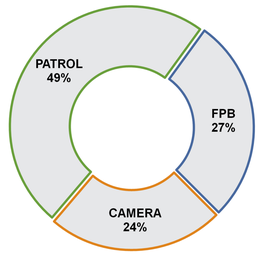
number per week



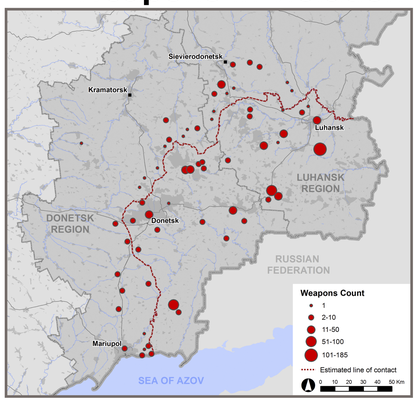
time of day



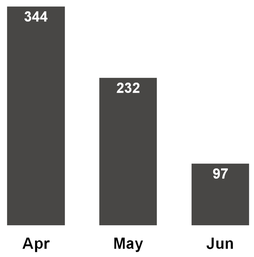
source of observation



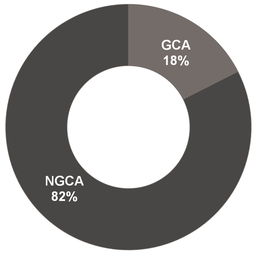
Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines



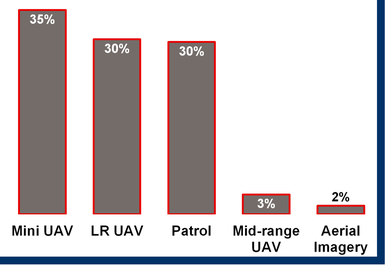
by month



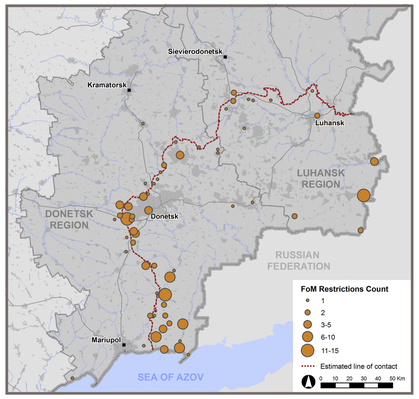
by control



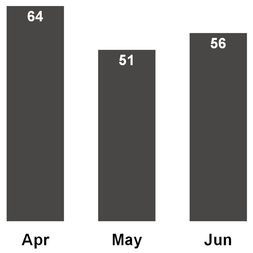
by source of observation



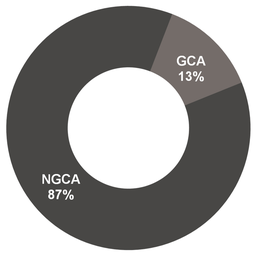
Freedom of movement (FoM) restrictions*



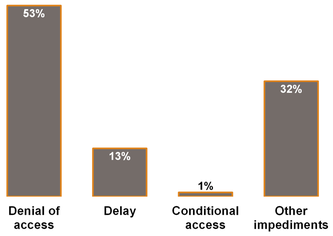
by month



by control



by type



* Excluding regular restrictions faced by the SMM related to mines and UXO.

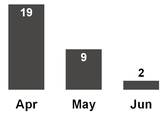
Civilian casualties

in Apr-Jun 2021:

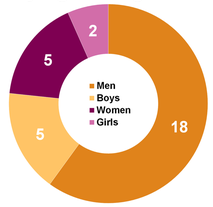
5 fatalities

25 injured

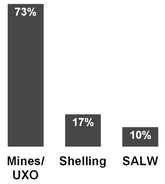
by month



by age and gender



by cause



Main trends:

In the second quarter of 2021, the number of ceasefire violations recorded along the contact line tripled, compared with the previous quarter. The Mission also observed a significant increase in number of explosions attributable to weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements.

Although the level of violence remained significantly lower than the level before additional measures that took effect on 27 July, the security situation was deteriorating.

Most of the armed violence recorded was concentrated in four hotspots along the contact line, which accounted for about 77 per cent of all recorded ceasefire violations:
1) Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area.
2) Popasna-Zolote-Pervomaisk area.
3) The western and northern outskirts of Horlivka.
4) Areas east and north-east of Mariupol.

Ceasefire violations recorded outside the security zone were often assessed as live-fire exercises in violation of Minsk agreements. The SMM recorded almost 1,250 such ceasefire violations (overall, five per cent of all ceasefire violations observed), of which 93 per cent were recorded in non-government-controlled areas.

In the second quarter of 2021, the SMM corroborated 30 civilian casualties. The majority of the casualties were due to mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosive objects. So far for 2021, the Mission has confirmed 44 civilian casualties (11 killed and 33 injured).

The Mission observed almost 700 weapons in violation of withdrawal lines – 22 per cent more when compared with the previous quarter. Eighty-two per cent of these weapons were observed in non-government-controlled areas, and 18 per cent in government-controlled areas. Seventy per cent of these observations were made by unmanned aerial vehicles or revealed through other aerial imagery available to the SMM, while 30 per cent - by patrols on the ground.

The SMM faced freedom of movement restrictions not related to mines or unexploded ordnance on more than 170 occasions, an approximate 60 per cent increase compared with the previous quarter. Eighty-seven per cent of those took place in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and they concentrated in southern Donetsk region, western outskirts of Donetsk city, as well as in in areas near the unsecured border with the Russian Federation.

Sources for maps: Administrative boundaries – OCHA; Roads, Rivers – OpenStreetMap; Sea – VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other – OSCE.
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N
These maps are provided for illustrative purposes only. Their content is not warranted to be error-free, and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.
Percentages may be rounded.
© OSCE SMM 2021. Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.