

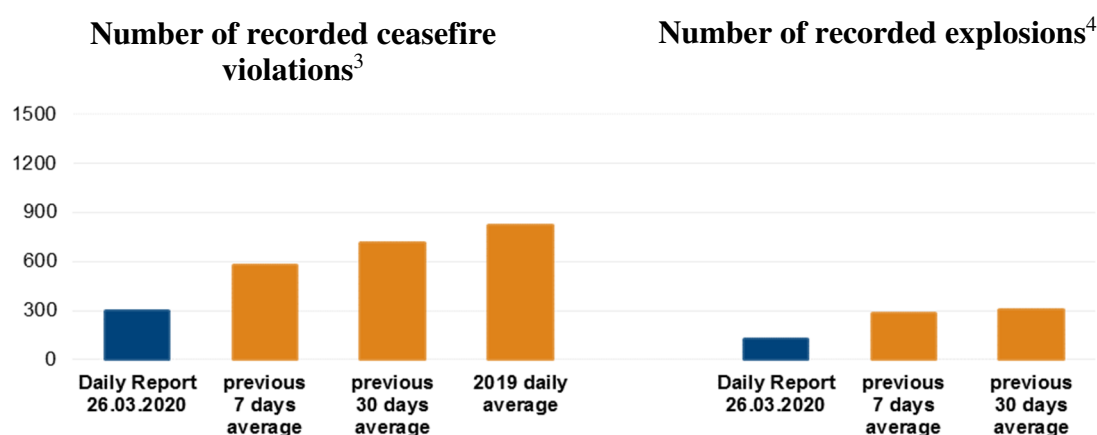
# Daily Report 72/2020

26 March 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- A representative of *Voda Donbassa* water company told the SMM that on the afternoon on 25 March, the Donetsk Filtration Station had suspended its operation due to security concerns for their workers.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM saw for the first time anti-tank mines near Rozsadky.
- The Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoints near Novotroitske and near Stanytsia Luhanska, as well as two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remained closed.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable demining activities near Krasnyi Yar, as well as the construction of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement continued, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Stanytsia Luhanska, where members of the armed formations again denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>



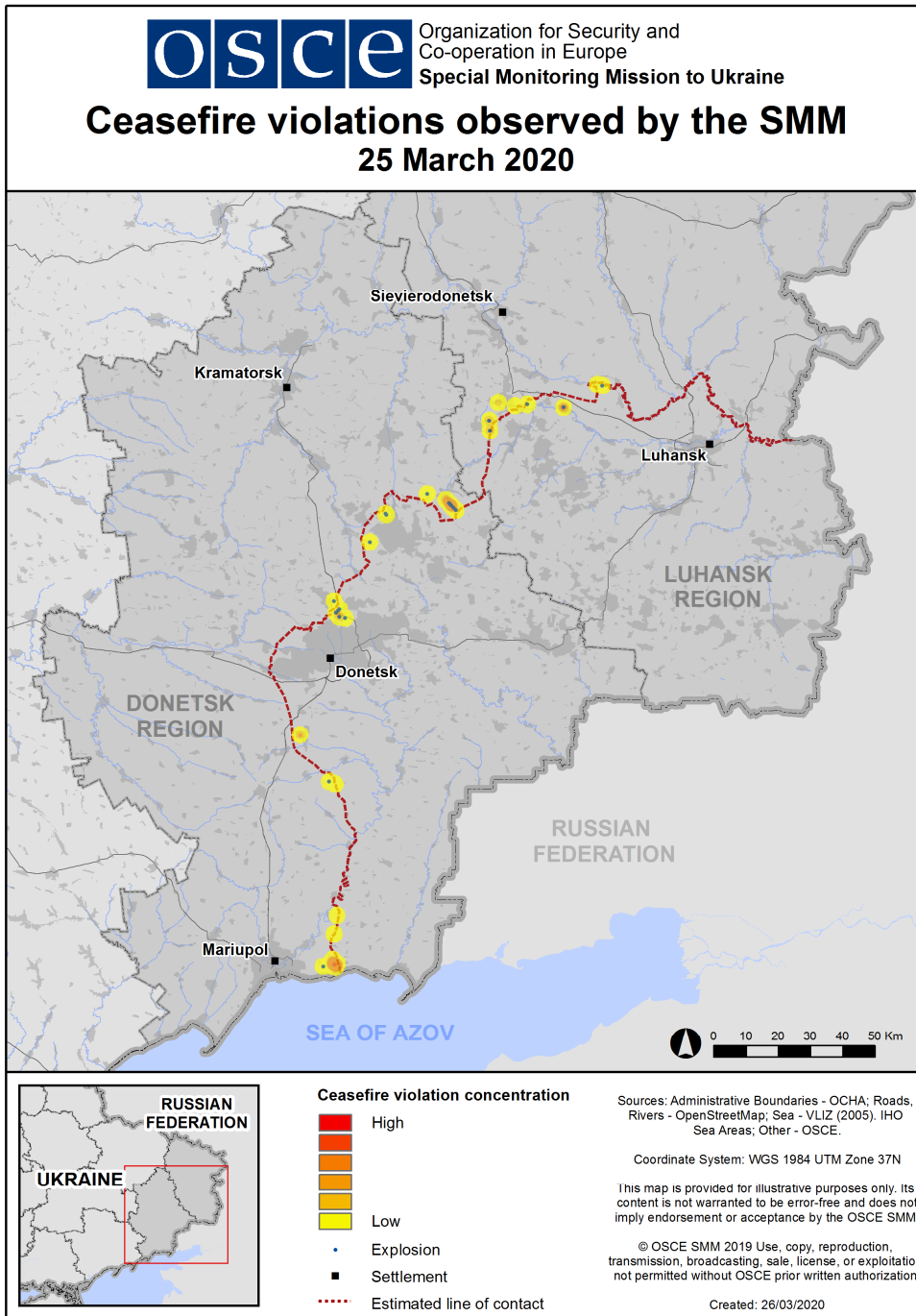
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 March 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras at the Oktiabr mine were not operational.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including, however, more explosions (about 85), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (42 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas south-east of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk), where more than half of the explosions occurred.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (about 40), compared with the [previous reporting period](#) (about 290 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded in areas west of Smile (non-government-controlled, 31km north-west of Luhansk) and in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk).

### Developments at the Donetsk Filtration Station

On the morning on 25 March, the SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned near the DFS, the SMM heard 24 undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius from the station. On the afternoon of the same day, a representative of *Voda Donbassa* water company told the SMM that the DFS had suspended its operation at 12:30 due to security concerns for their workers. On the same day, members of the armed formations had announced that they would no longer be present on the road leading to the DFS.

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

On 24 March, about 100m north of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted two infantry fighting vehicles (BMP variants) and an armoured combat vehicle (for previous observations, see [SMM Daily Report 11 March 2020](#)).

On 25 March, inside the disengagement area, the Mission saw five 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 evening and night between 24 and 25 March, the SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) recorded a projectile in flight at an assessed range of 2-4km east. On 25 March, positioned in three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission heard eight explosions (seven assessed as outgoing mortar rounds and one undetermined) and 18 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire. All the above ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On the evening and night between 24 and 25 March, the SMM cameras in Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) and in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) recorded a total of four projectiles in flight, assessed as **inside the disengagement area near Petrivske**. On 25 March, positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at a north-easterly direction, assessed as outside the disengagement area.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

The Mission saw a weapon in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further details, see the tables below).

## **Indications of military presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles, including in and near residential areas, in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further details, see the table below).

## **Presence of anti-tank mines near Rozsadky**

On 21 March, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time two rows of 30 anti-tank mines (not seen in imagery from 21 November 2019), in fields about 6km north-east of Rozsadky (62km north of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 11 March 2020](#)).

## **Preventive measures against COVID-19 outbreak**

On 25 March, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoints near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and on the northern edge of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska, as well as checkpoints of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge remained closed with no traffic in either direction.\*

On the same day, in a border area outside government controlled, at a crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) (see below), members of the armed formations said that a doctor was checking temperatures of all people crossing the border crossing point and that members of the armed formations operating it were having their temperatures checked every morning.

## **SMM facilitation of the construction of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure and demining activities**

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the construction of a power line near the EECP near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), repairs to water pipelines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk) and demining activities near Krasnyi Yar (non-government-controlled, 12km north-east of Luhansk).

## **Border areas outside government control**

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka for about 15 minutes (see above), the SMM saw 13 vehicles, including seven with “DPR” and one with “LPR” plates, one covered cargo truck with Ukrainian licence plates and three pedestrians (men, aged 40-60) entering

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

Ukraine. During the same period, the Mission saw a bus with “DPR” plates and 19 vehicles, including nine with “DPR” plates, exiting Ukraine.

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, 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 [SMM Daily Report 24 March 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.*

#### Denial of access:

- At a checkpoint 200m south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas, citing “order from superiors” (see also [SMM Spot Report 4/2020](#)).
- At a checkpoint in Olenivka (non-government controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage to non-government-controlled areas, citing “the closure of the checkpoint due to quarantine” (see also [SMM Spot Report 4/2020](#)).

#### *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.

#### Other impediments:

- An SMM long-range UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk) and Ocheretyne (31km north-west of Donetsk).<sup>7</sup>
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

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<sup>7</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs’ positions.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
23/03/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	In a compound near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/03/2020	6	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35)	At and near the railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Self-propelled howitzers (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	4	Self-propelled mortar (2S9 <i>Nona-S</i> , 120mm)		
21/03/2020	23	Tank (T-64)		
24/03/2020	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152m)	At the railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

## Table of military presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
23/03/2020	12	Infantry fighting vehicle (seven BMP-1 and five BMP-2)	In a compound near Vrubivka	Mini UAV
24/03/2020	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a residential area of Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
25/03/2020	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) mounted atop a truck	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	4	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area in Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In Raihorodka (34km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In Zolote-3/Stakhanovets (61km west of Luhansk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In Vesele (21km north of Donetsk)	

<sup>8</sup> 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 25 March 2020<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km ESE	Recorded	10	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Mar, 23:14
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	5	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Mar, 23:16
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	25-Mar, 03:07
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW (assessed as inside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	25-Mar, 03:16
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	25-Mar, 01:19
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	24-Mar, 20:32
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (also recorded by the SMM camera in Chermalyk)	N/K	24-Mar, 22:40
SMM camera in Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-3km WSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-Mar, 20:21
	1-3km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Mar, 02:36
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 20:07
	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 20:09
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 20:33
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 20:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	24-Mar, 20:47
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 20:48
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Mar, 20:50
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	24-Mar, 21:07
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	24-Mar, 21:26
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 22:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 22:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Mar, 22:33
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 22:33
	3-5km NW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:33
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 22:54
2-4km NNE	Recorded	7	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 22:56	

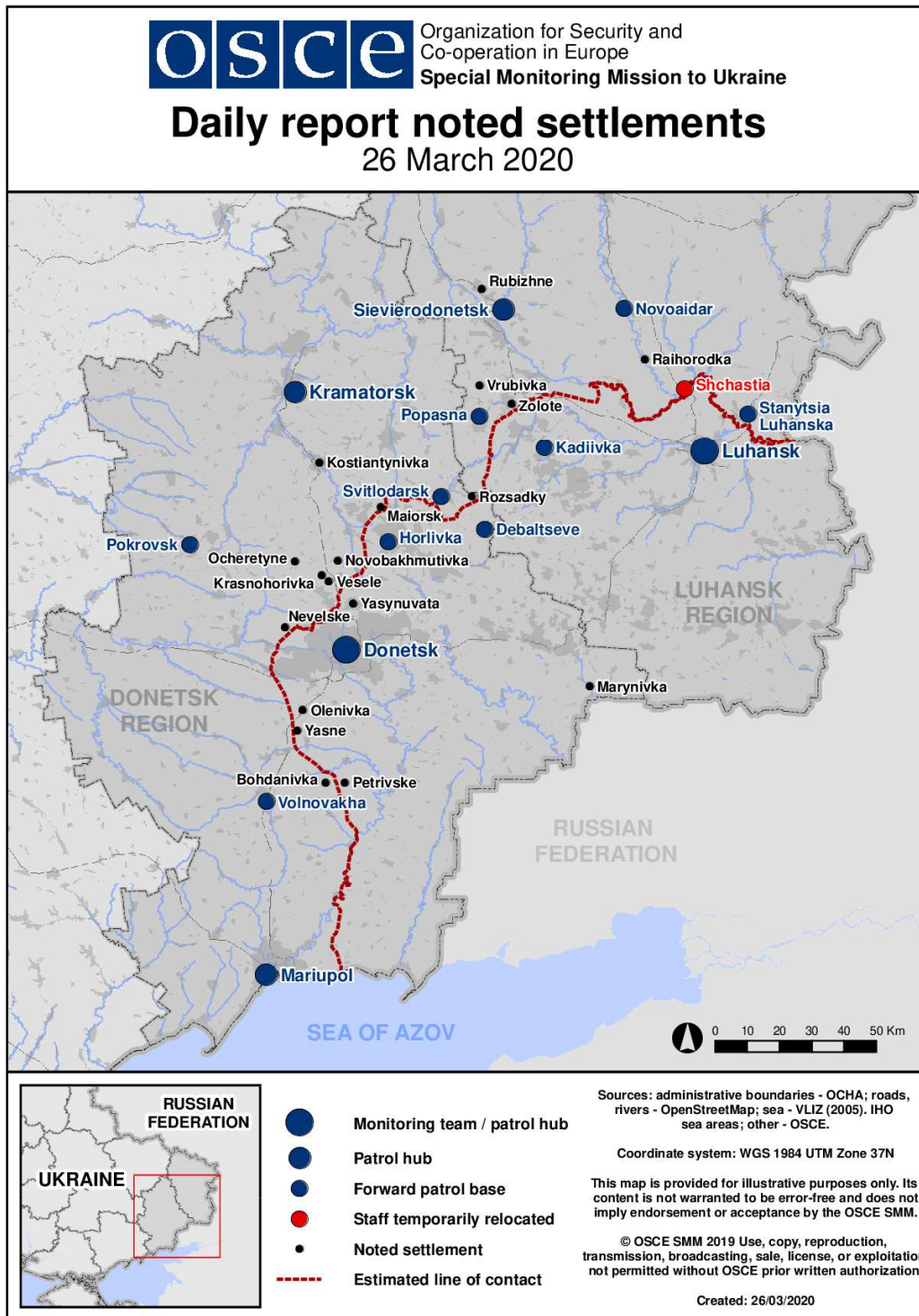
<sup>9</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based 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.

	3-5km NNE	Recorded	14	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 22:57
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 23:02
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	24-Mar, 23:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	E to W	N/K	24-Mar, 23:09
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	24-Mar, 23:16
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	24-Mar, 23:27
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Mar, 00:25
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Mar, 00:27
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Mar, 00:49
	2-4km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Mar, 00:52
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	25-Mar, 00:53
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	25-Mar, 02:10
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	25-Mar, 03:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	25-Mar, 03:38
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	25-Mar, 03:39
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	25-Mar, 03:46
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SSW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 09:12-09:17
	3-5km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 09:29-09:36
	3-5km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 10:54
	2-3km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 11:17
	4-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 11:30
	4-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 11:36
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 12:52-13:01
	N/K NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	25-Mar, 13:39
	4-5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 10:36
	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 13:15
	2-3km SE	Heard		Burst		Small arms	24-Mar, 21:17-21:20
	2-3km SE	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	24-Mar, 21:29
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 21:55
	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:03
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:07
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:10
	5-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:12
	5-7km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 22:15-22:17
	3-5km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	24-Mar, 22:21
	2-3km SE	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	24-Mar, 22:46
	6-8km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 23:44-23:47
	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	24-Mar, 23:48
	6-8km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 23:52
	4-6km SE	Heard	24	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 10:35-11:08
	4-6km SE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 11:12-11:18
	4-5km SE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 11:46-11:55



Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 13:41-13:43
About 6km N of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 13:15
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 17:51
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Mar, 22:58
	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	24-Mar, 22:58
	3-5km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 23:48
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Mar, 01:07
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Heard	2	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	25-Mar, 04:10-04:30
	3-5km ESE	Heard	6	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	Mortar (type N/K)	25-Mar, 04:10-04:30
	3-5km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	Mortar (type N/K)	25-Mar, 04:59
	3-5km ESE	Heard	6	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	25-Mar, 05:48-05:50
N edge of Smile (non-government-controlled, 31km NW of Luhansk)	10-15km W	Heard	21	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 10:14-10:20
3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	5-7km NW	Heard	10	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	25-Mar, 11:28-11:36
Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 13:51
About 2km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km W of Luhansk)	2-3km SW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Mar, 14:23-14:33
	2-3km SW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	25-Mar, 14:23-14:33

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).