

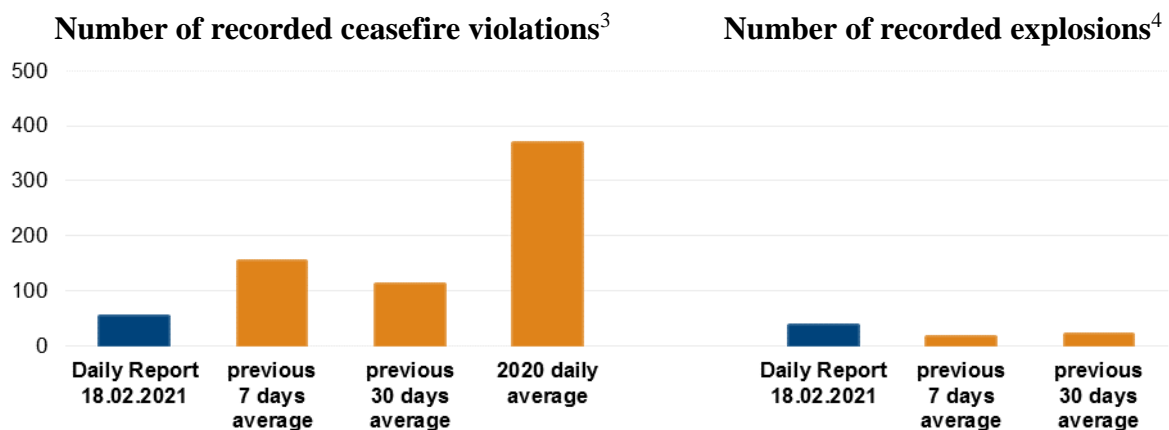
Daily Report 39/2021

18 February 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded ten ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 40 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 29 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and again saw containers inside and near the southern edge of the area near Zolote, as well as people inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission saw weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM observed for the first time ten probable anti-tank mines near non-government-controlled Dokuchaievsk, Donetsk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European 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.

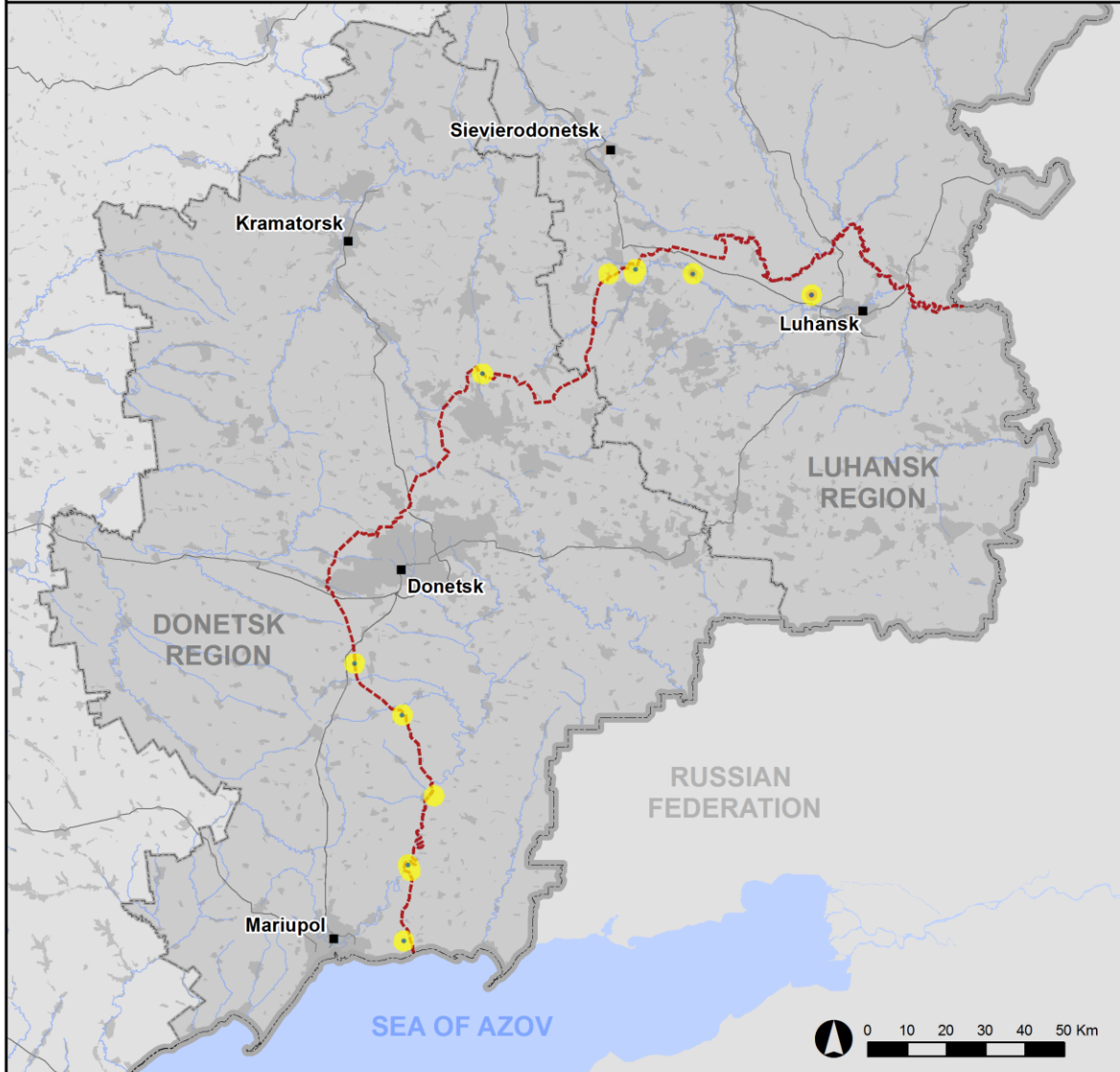
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

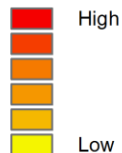


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 February 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: 18/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations, including eight explosions (seven of which undetermined and an airburst of an undetermined weapon), the majority of which occurred in an area north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded ten ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 40 ceasefire violations, including 30 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in an area south of Staryi Aidar (government-controlled, 20km north-west of Luhansk) and at easterly and westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 29 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 so far recorded at least 9,680 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,342 explosions, 1,124 projectiles in flight, 101 muzzle flashes, 60 illumination flares and at least 5,053 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 17 February, 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) on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the morning of 16 February, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 17 February, while positioned in two locations near the area, the Mission recorded three undetermined explosions and ten shots and bursts of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of the area’s southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission again saw concrete blocks stacked along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter.

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five containers and another one about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. About 10–30m north of the former container, the Mission again saw six concrete blocks placed in three rows across both lanes of the same road.

The Mission also saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), all of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. It also observed an ambulance carrying three passengers (two women and

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

one man, age unknown) in medical protective gear enter the disengagement area and drive to about 330m north of its southern edge and then exit the area after about 30 minutes.

During the day on 16 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41 south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner and two people inside a former position of the armed formations about 400m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On 17 February, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed distance of 1.5km north-north-east, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission 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, SMM UAVs spotted a surface-to-air missile system near residential houses in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and three self-propelled howitzers, 15 tanks, three anti-tank guns and three surface-to-air missile systems at a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed seven self-propelled howitzers near residential houses and a surface-to-air missile system, all in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

The SMM saw 18 armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including five in residential areas, as well as 14 armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, of which 13 at a training area (for further information, see the table below).

Anti-tank mines near government-controlled Berezove and near non-government-controlled Dokuchaievsk, Donetsk region

On 15 February, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time ten probable anti-tank mines laid in a single row across road T-0509, about 3.5km west of Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. About 1.2km further west and about 3.5km south-east of Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), the same UAV also spotted 59 anti-tank mines laid in two rows across the same road, stretching north- and southwards into fields, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 28 September 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of maintenance, operation and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure

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

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

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and repairs of water intake infrastructure between Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), in Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk) and near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, at about 9:10 and 11:05 a.m. at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission saw about 400 and 150 people (mixed genders and ages), respectively, queuing to enter government-controlled areas and 250 and 50 people (mixed genders and ages), respectively, queuing in the opposite direction. At about 9:40 and 11:00 a.m., at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, the SMM saw about 80 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and about 150 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and the EECP.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but did not observe any people passing through, and 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.

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 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 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 of 9 February 2021](#)). 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.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 16 February, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over areas between Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk) and Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk), and between Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk) and Mokroielanchyk (non-government-controlled, 62km south-east of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/2/2021	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	15	Tank (T-72)		
	3	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Yurkivka (86km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	7	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	Near a residential area of Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (MT-LB variants)	In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-Ch)		
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)		
16/2/2021	2	Armored personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)	Near Myronivskiyi (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armored personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Slavne (26km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armored personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Armored combat vehicle (undetermined variant)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB M) with an anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Novoselivka Druha (23km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

17/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (undetermined variant)	In Petrivka (27km north of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
16/2/2021	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BTS-4A)	In a compound in Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	10	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	In a training area Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		

Table of ceasefire violations as of 17 February 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 00:26
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	16-Feb, 22:24
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	16-Feb, 22:24
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	16-Feb, 22:25
	1-3km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	16-Feb, 22:25
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	16-Feb, 19:46
	2-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	16-Feb, 21:47
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	16-Feb, 22:24
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	16-Feb, 22:24
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 02:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 18:54
About 2km ENE of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	1.5km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	17-Feb, 10:01
About 3km S of Zaitseve (50km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 12:10
N edge of Staryi Aidar (government-controlled, 20km NW of Luhansk)	10-15km S	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 11:25-11:45
1.5km SW of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	12-15km E	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Feb, 11:35-11:50
	1-2km NW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	17-Feb, 11:35-11:50
	1-2km W	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	17-Feb, 11:35-11:50

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.

W edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-5km NNW	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	17-Feb, 13:26-13:30
	3-5km NNW	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	17-Feb, 13:26-13:30

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).