

Daily Report 40/2021

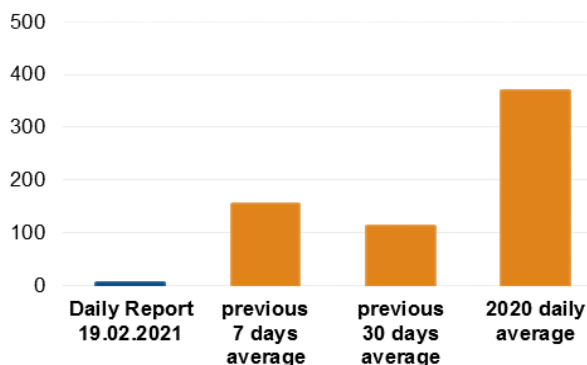
19 February 2021¹

Summary

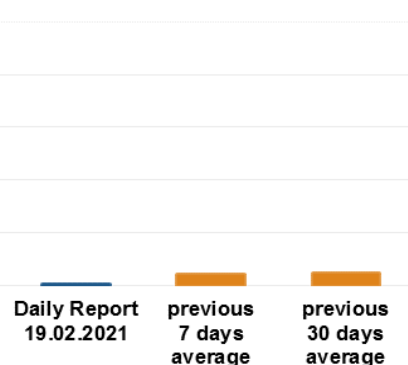
- The SMM recorded three ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded one ceasefire violation in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 40 ceasefire violations in the region.
- 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 facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two border crossing points and near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk), all in Luhansk region. At the latter location, the SMM had to land its unmanned aerial vehicle after members of the armed formations said that they would confiscate all the SMM's equipment otherwise.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 18 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.

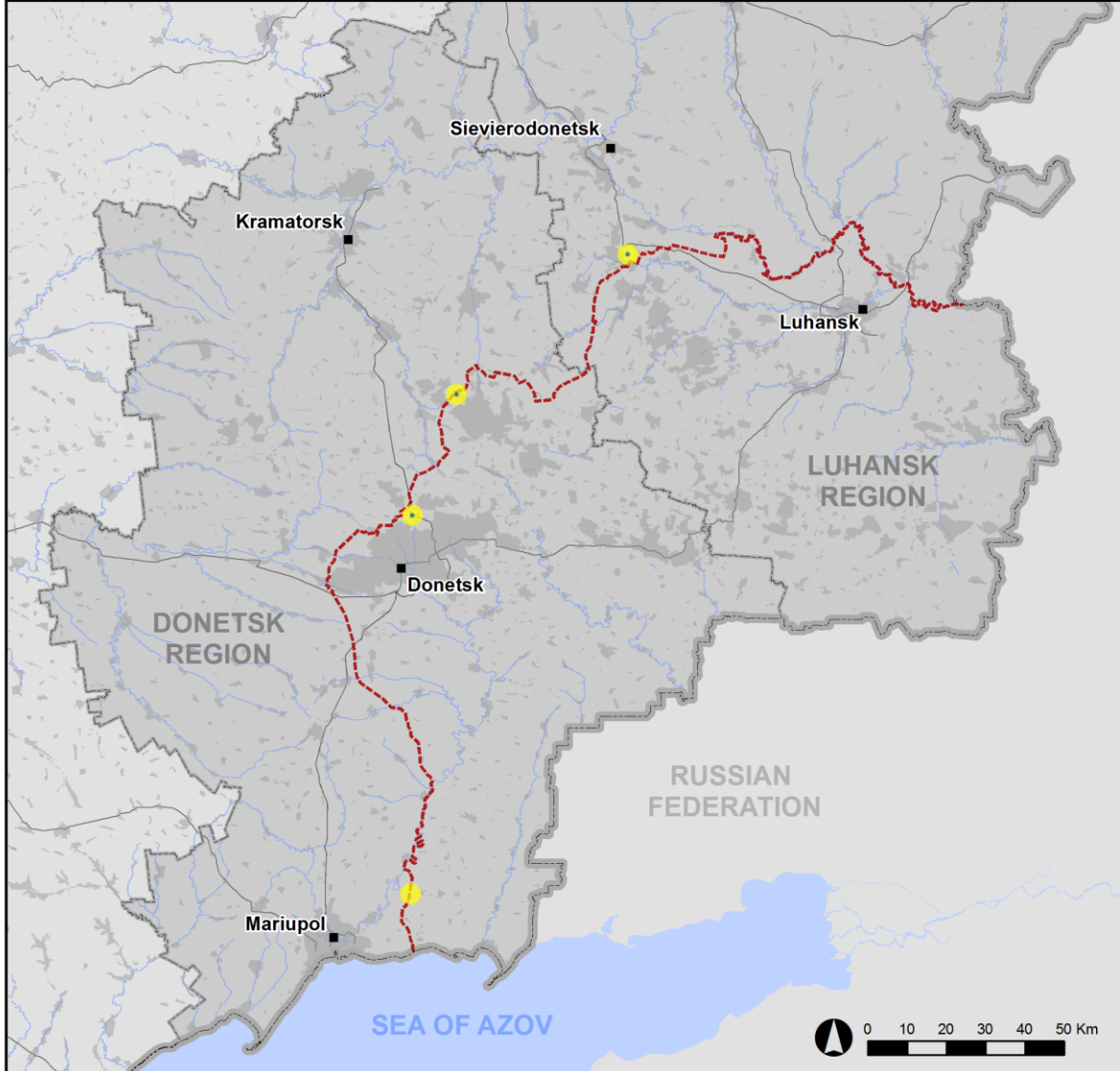
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

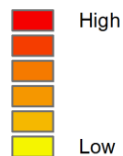


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 19/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded three ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions, all of which occurred in areas south of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below), north-east of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and north-east of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation – an undetermined explosion in an area north of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60 km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 40 ceasefire violations, some of which occurred near the disengagement area near Zolote.

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 9,684 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,345 explosions, 1,125 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 18 February, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw four 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 17 February, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: one about 1km east-south-east and another one about 1.5km south-east of the area’s north-western corner. The same UAV spotted a person close to a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 18 February, 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). It observed nine workers placing concrete tiles between the containers. 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 two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), both of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

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

On the morning of 17 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m east-north-east of the area's south-western corner. The same UAV spotted two people near a former position of the armed formations about 100m north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

On 18 February, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM saw a person exiting a former position of the armed formations on the northern edge of the area, about 400m west of the area's north-eastern corner.

On the same day, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdaniivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission observed a mini-UAV (dark quadcopter type) flying over a field about 350m east of its position, over the north-western corner of the area, despite the ban on the operation of any types of aerial vehicles included in the 22 July Trilateral Contact Group decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

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, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled residential area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including in a training area, and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence on 13 February of a probable armoured combat vehicle in a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014.

Presence of mines in non-government-controlled Betmanove and in government-controlled area of Zaitseve, Donetsk region

On 16 February, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted six anti-tank mines (TM-62), assessed as belonging to the armed formations, laid across a road near residential houses on the north-western edge of Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 June 2020](#)).

On 17 February, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted at least 26 anti-tank mines laid across and on the northern and southern edges of a road in a government-controlled area of Zaitseve (50km

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

north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 9 February 2021](#))

SMM facilitation of operation and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the maintenance and operation of the DFS. While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission recorded one undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the DFS. The SMM also monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs of water intake infrastructure between Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, at about 9:10 and 10:50 a.m. at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission saw about 70 and 50 people (mixed genders and ages), respectively, queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas, and about 100 people (mixed genders and ages) and no people, respectively, queuing in the opposite direction. The Mission observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and the EECP. At about 9:20 and 11:10 a.m. at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, the SMM saw 11 and six people (mixed genders and ages), respectively, queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas, and 26 and ten people (mixed genders and ages), respectively, queuing in the opposite direction.

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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes the Mission observed two cars (with “LPR” plates), a bus (with about 15 passengers, mixed genders and ages), a covered cargo truck and a woman entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed two cars (with “LPR” plates) exiting Ukraine. After about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

While at a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (84km south-east of Luhansk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM observed two cars and a covered cargo truck (all with “LPR” plates) entering Ukraine and five cars (including three with “LPR” plates) exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

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 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.

Denials:

- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, referring to orders from superiors.
- At a border crossing point near Dovzhanske (non-government-controlled, 84km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, referring to orders from 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, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 18 February, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over Hryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 68km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, while conducting an announced SMM mini-UAV flight on the southern outskirts of Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), two members of the armed formations told the Mission to land the UAV, saying that they could not ensure its integrity, and that they would confiscate all of the SMM's equipment otherwise. The Mission landed the aircraft and left the area. Before, on the same morning, the same two members of the armed formations approached the SMM after it had conducted a mini-UAV flight on the eastern outskirts of Voznesenivka and asked about its activities in the area.

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				
17/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	On the edge of a residential area of Mykolaiivka (57km north 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				
17/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	7	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle		
18/2/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Rozivka (32km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
17/2/2021	2	Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variants)	In a compound in Luhansk city	Mini-UAV
15/2/2021	6	Armoured combat vehicle	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	Aerial imagery

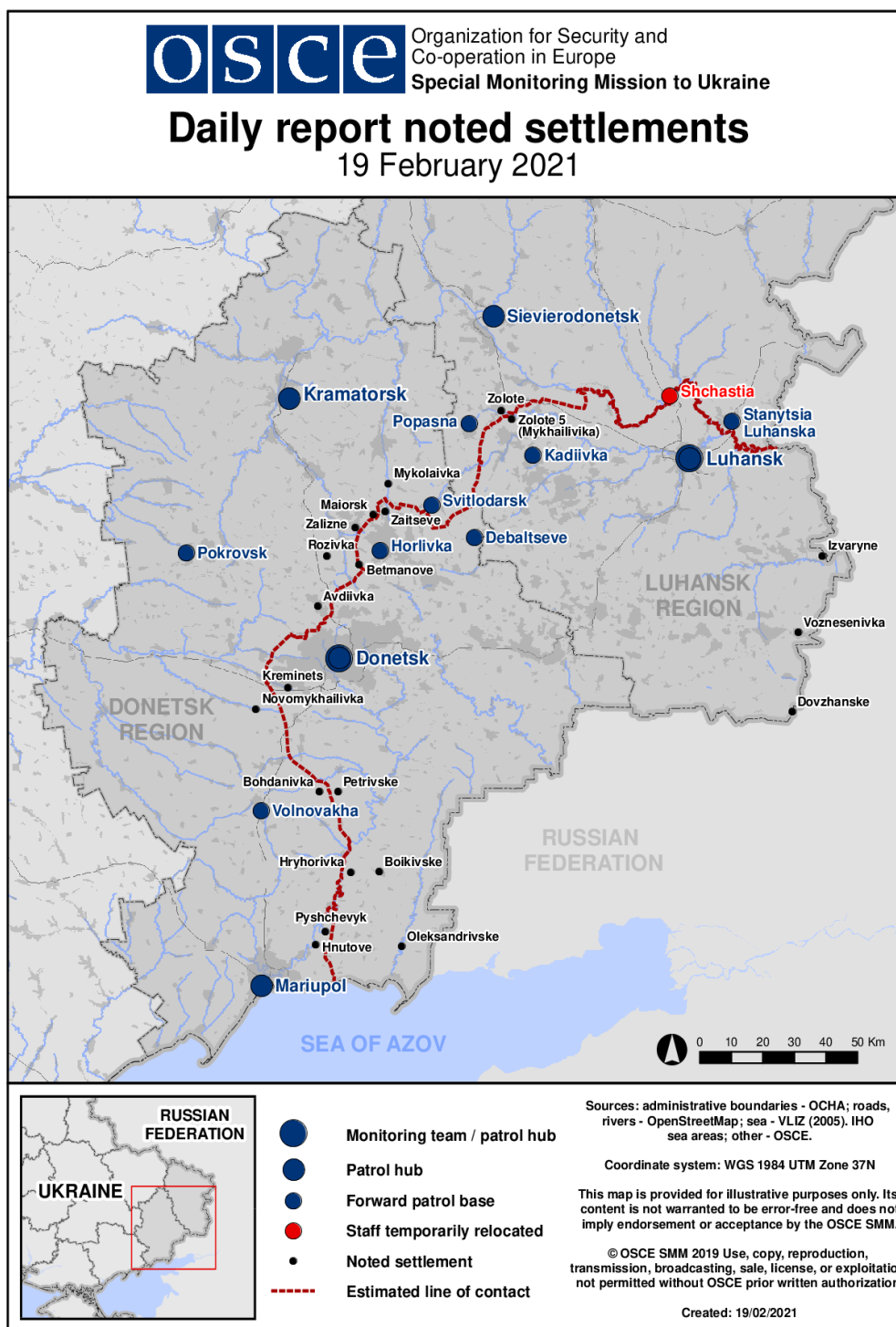
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 18 February 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	18-Feb, 01:42
SE edge of Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (inside 5km radius of DFS)	N/K	18-Feb, 10:33
About 1km NE of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government- controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Feb, 10:30
SW edge of Berezivske (non- government- controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	5-7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Feb, 10:47

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.

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).