

# Daily Report 44/2021

24 February 2021<sup>1</sup>

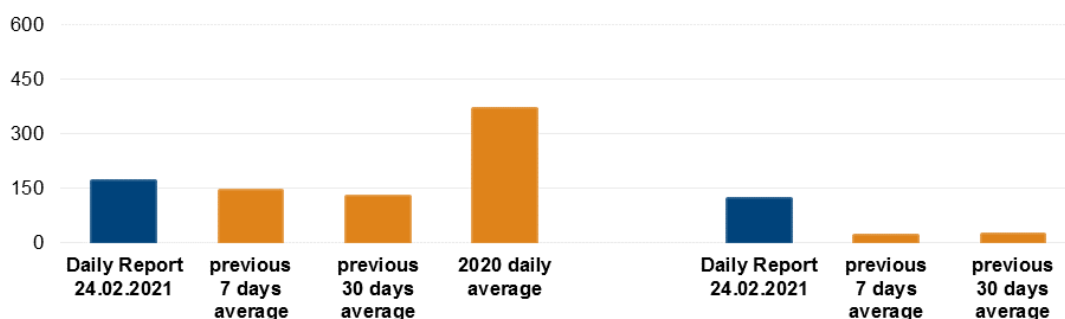
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 170 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 88 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations, as in the previous reporting period.
- 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.
- The Mission observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near non-government-controlled Novoazovsk and Samsonove, southern Donetsk region.\*

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

### Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

### Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 23 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

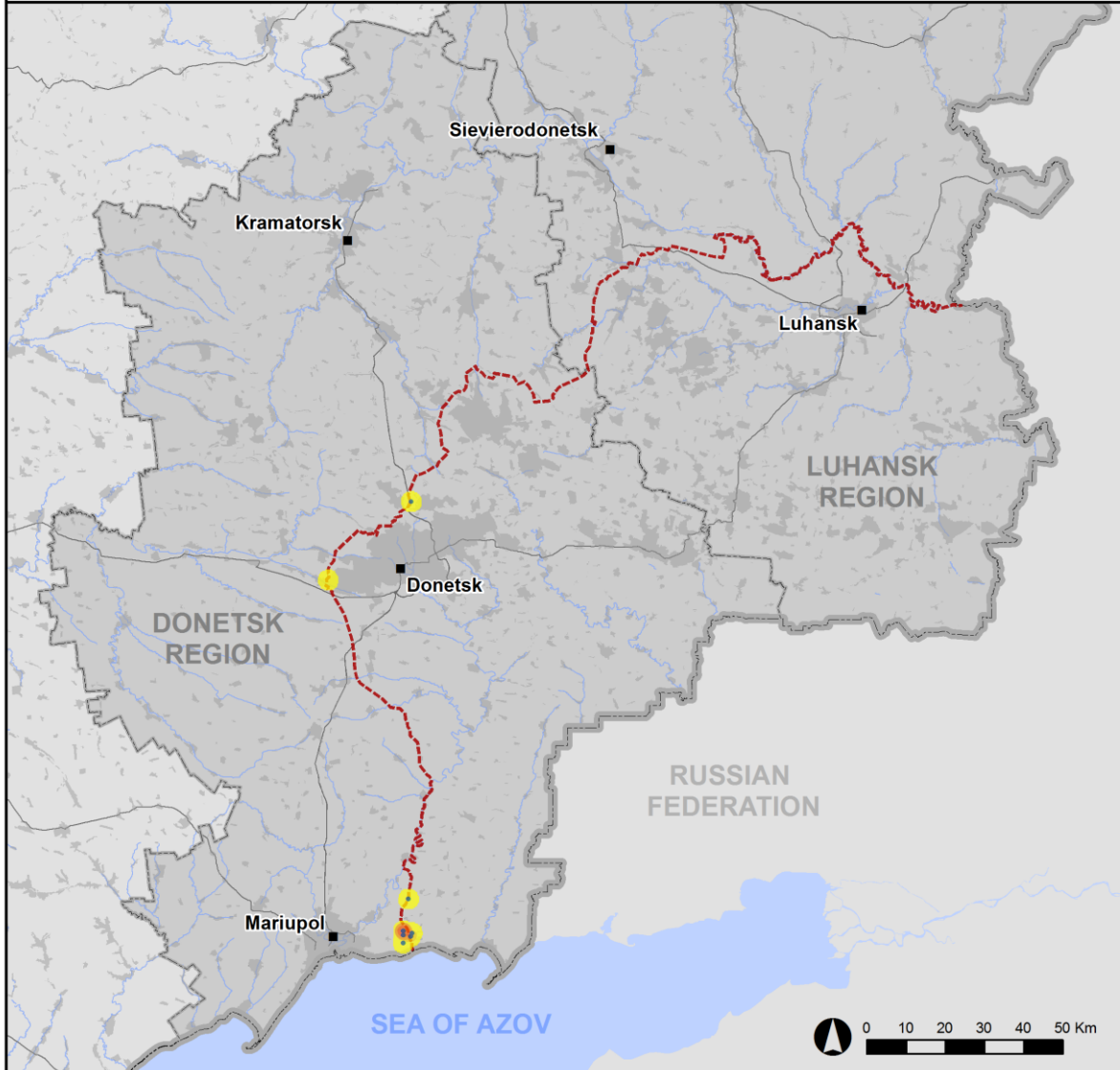
<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

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

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 February 2021



#### Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
- 
- Low

- 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: 24/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 170 ceasefire violations, including 122 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 88 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, as in the [previous reporting period](#). The last time it recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on 20 February (see [SMM Daily Report of 22 February 2021](#)).

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 10,773 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,531 explosions, 1,228 projectiles in flight, 101 muzzle flashes, 61 illumination flares and at least 5,852 bursts and shots).

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

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

Outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), about 50m north of the area’s northern edge, the Mission saw two stationary armoured personnel carriers (BTR-70) on the eastern edge of road T-1316.

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). Inside the fenced perimeter, the Mission saw 12 workers laying concrete tiles and two workers welding three metal poles, reportedly for construction of a roofed structure. The SMM also again saw concrete blocks placed along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter.

The SMM again saw another container, which was previously located about 30m north of the area’s southern edge, on the area’s southern edge.

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another 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.

While positioned near the abovementioned checkpoint of the armed formations, the Mission 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, accompanied by an ambulance carrying two people in protective medical gear.

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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.

While positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### **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, the SMM observed four multiple launch rocket systems in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as a multiple launch rocket system, eight self-propelled howitzers and six anti-tank guns in a non-government-controlled training area in Donetsk region, and 21 multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed four multiple rocket launch systems, 12 probable anti-tank guns and four surface-to-air missile systems in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as 43 tanks in a non-government-controlled training area in Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near a residential area, and an armoured combat vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

### **SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). On the morning of 23 February, while positioned near the station, the SMM heard an undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53m north-east of Donetsk).

### **Border areas outside government control**

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 45 minutes, the SMM observed 12 cars (including three with “DPR” plates), a covered-cargo truck and eight pedestrians (four women in their thirties and forties, three men in their twenties and one child) entering Ukraine. It also saw seven cars (including five with “DPR” plates), three covered-cargo trucks with “DPR” plates, a bus with “DPR” plates and seven pedestrians (five women in their twenties and forties and two men in their thirties) exiting Ukraine.

The Mission monitored also border areas near Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk) and Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), and observed a calm situation.

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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.

### Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, while at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska at 9:00 a.m., the Mission saw 75 people (45 women and 30 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 250 people (150 women and 100 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. While at the EECP at 2:15 pm, it saw no people queuing in either direction. The Mission also 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, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odessa, Lviv, 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 23 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.*

#### Denials:

- In Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the settlement, saying the SMM's presence may potentially create "problems for himself", and then followed the SMM in a civilian vehicle to a checkpoint of the armed formations on the outer edge of the settlement. At the checkpoint, he again asked the Mission to leave the area.
- Near Samsonove (non-government-controlled, 101km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage southwards, referring to a lack of "preliminary information".

*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.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
23/2/2021	4	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm) loaded on flatbed carriages of a train	Near Kindrativka (68km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	1	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	6	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
20/2/2021	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalniyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

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

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
23/2/2021	12	Probable anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	In Druzhkivka (72km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (undetermined variants)		
	4	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm) loaded on flatbed carriages of a train		
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
19/2/2021	43	Tank (nine T-72B, ten T-64BV and 24 undetermined variants)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>7</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (one BMP-1 and one probable BMP variant)	Near a residential area in Novoselivka (66km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	10	Infantry fighting vehicle (nine BMP variants and one probable BMP variant)	Near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, 40km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
23/2/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Zolote-4/Rodina (62km west of Luhansk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/2/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)	Near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, 44km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

<sup>7</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 23 February 2021<sup>8</sup>**

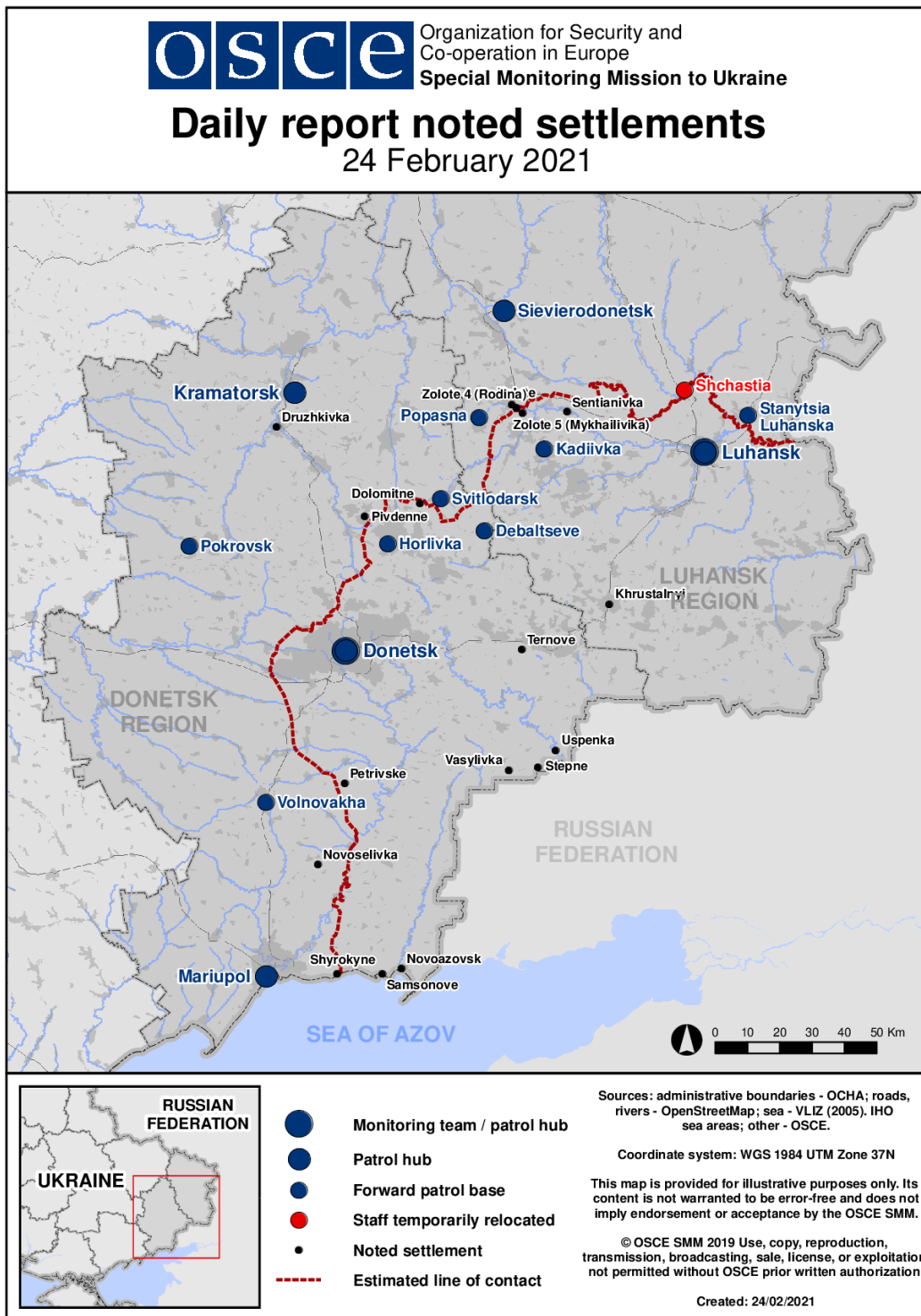
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:46
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:47
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	23-Feb, 18:37
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 22:59
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:00
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:01
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:02
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:03
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:04
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:05
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:06
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:07
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:08
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:09
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:10
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:11
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:12
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:13
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:16
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:17
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:18
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:19
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:21
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:22
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:22
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:23
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:24
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:25
	5-7km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:26
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:26
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:27
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:27
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:28
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:30
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:31
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:36
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:33
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:38
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:40
5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:45	
4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:46	
4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:47	

<sup>8</sup> 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.



	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:47
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:48
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:48
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:52
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:53
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:54
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:55
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:56
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:57
	2-4km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Feb, 23:58
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:03
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:04
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:05
	5-7km N	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:06
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:07
	5-7km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:07
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:08
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:08
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:09
	5-7km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:10
	5-7km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:11
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:14
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:15
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 00:16
	5-7km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	23-Feb, 00:30
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	23-Feb, 00:31
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Feb, 00:32
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	23-Feb, 00:32
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 02:30
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 03:03
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 04:19
About 1.5km WNW of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Feb, 08:45

## Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</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 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).