



Daily Report 48/2021

1 March 2021¹

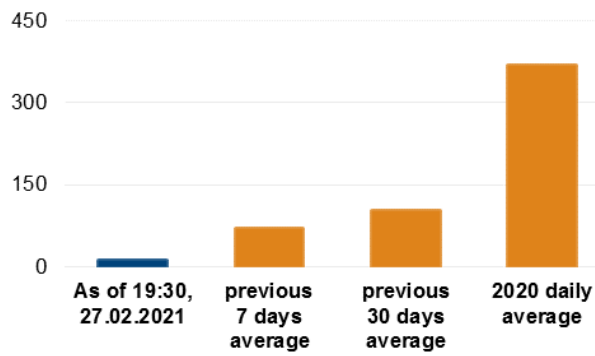
Summary

- Between the evenings of 26 and 28 February, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 41 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 26 and 28 February, the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 30 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of one of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near non-government-controlled Yasynuvata, Donetsk region, due to signal interference.
- The Mission 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 and people inside it during daytime. Inside the area near Petrivske, the Mission recorded a ceasefire violation.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line in 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 monitored gatherings in Kyiv and Lviv.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region and saw people with flag at the checkpoint near Chonhar.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

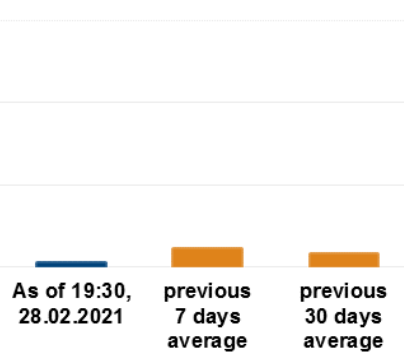
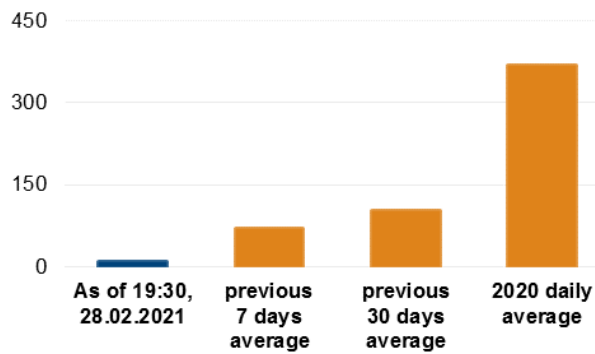
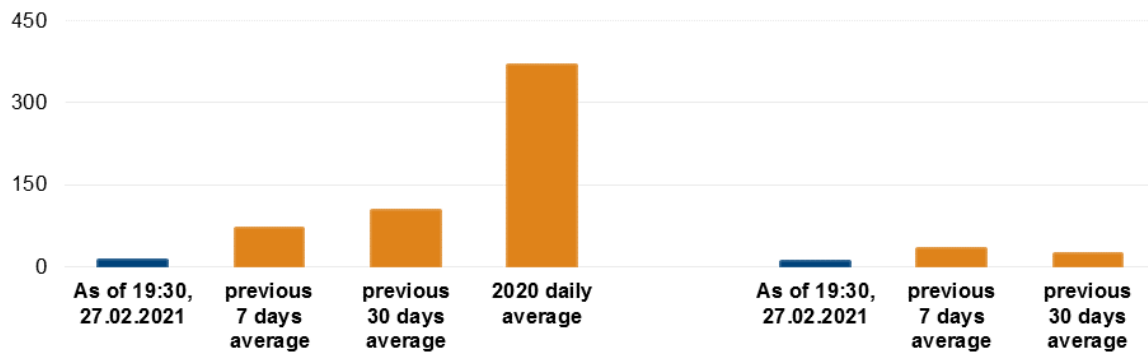
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 28 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



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, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras between the evenings of 27 and 28 February.

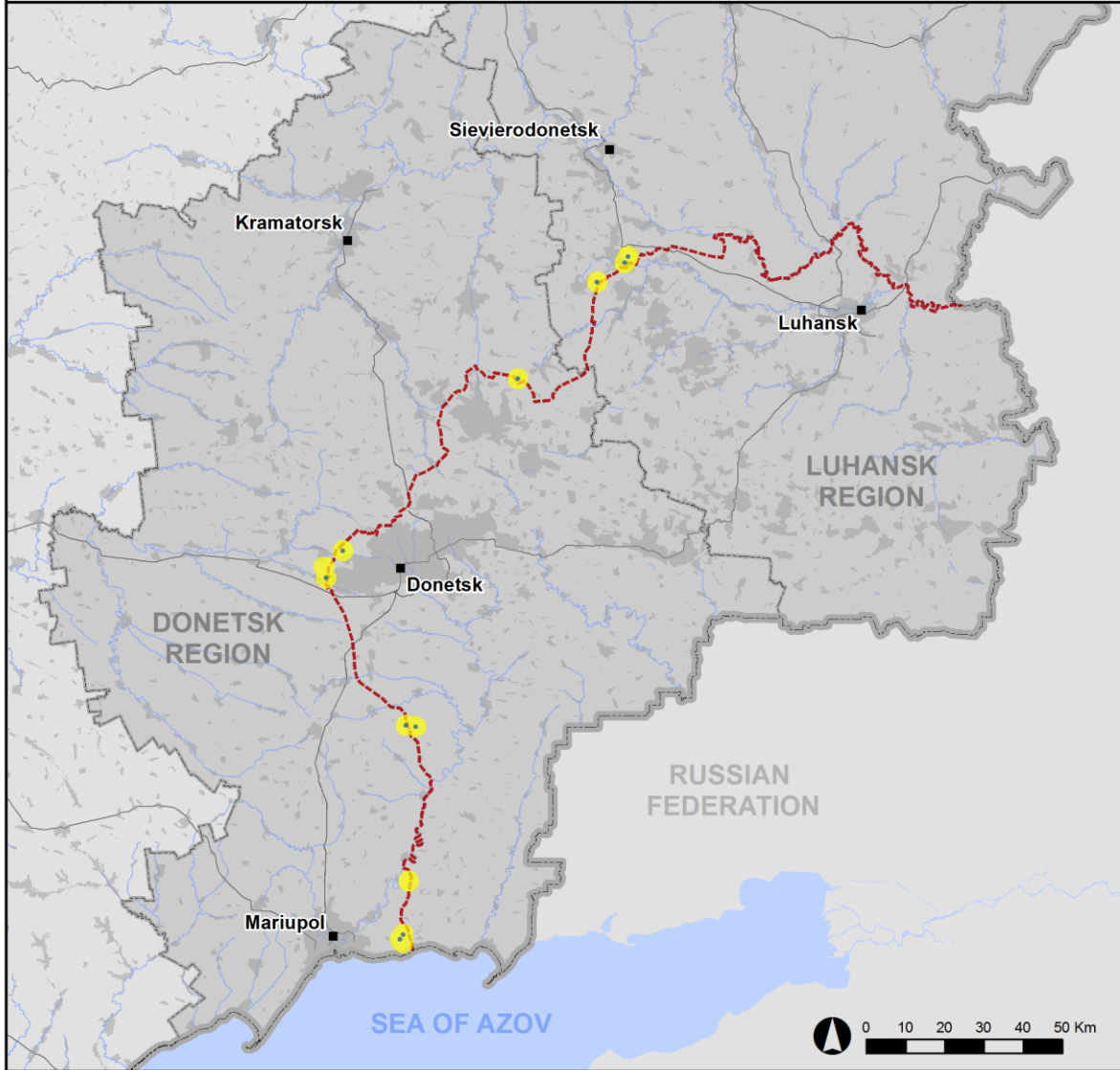
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

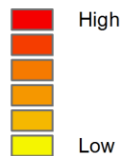
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 27-28 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: 01/03/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 26 and 28 February, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and in areas east and south of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 41 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 26 and 28 February, the SMM recorded six ceasefire violations, all explosions (one airburst and five undetermined), all of which occurred at north-easterly and south-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 30 ceasefire violations, most of which also 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 10,918 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,613 explosions, 1,242 projectiles in flight, 106 muzzle flashes, 62 illumination flares and at least 5,895 bursts and shots).

SMM lost spatial control of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Yasynuvata, Donetsk region

On the morning of 28 February, an SMM patrol was positioned on the western edge of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct five announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flights. During the third flight, the UAV experienced signal interference, after which the SMM lost spatial control over it from an assessed distance of 500m west-south-west of the patrol's position. SMM UAVs had also experienced signal interference during the two previous flights in the area. The Mission was unable to recover the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 27 and 28 February, 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).

On 27 and 28 February, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, 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 SMM again saw concrete blocks placed along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter. On 27 February, the Mission also observed a van as well as three workers with a chainsaw on the eastern side of the perimeter digging in the ground, reportedly in preparation for laying water pipes. On 28 February, the Mission observed four workers, two of whom

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

were digging holes along the northern edge of the perimeter and the other two welding metal posts on the northern side of the road leading to Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk).

On 27 and 28 February, 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.

On both days, 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.

Also on both days, while positioned near the same checkpoint of the armed formations, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On the night between 26 and 27 February, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km east. During the day on 27 February, while positioned about 1km south Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 5-6km north-west. On the evening of 27 February, the SMM cameras in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and in Zolote recorded an airburst at an assessed range of 4-6km east-south-east and an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2-4km east, respectively. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

During the day on 26 February, inside the area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area's northern edge, about 650m west of the its north-eastern corner. The same UAV also spotted at least two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 27 February, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-4km south, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 28 February, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2-3km south-east, assessed as inside the disengagement area.

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 a howitzer in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as six multiple launch rocket systems and six howitzers in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a training area.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed 42 tanks, 26 howitzers and eight anti-tank guns in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as ten tanks and six howitzers in a non-government-controlled training area in Donetsk region (for further information, see the tables below).

Weapons permanent storage sites

At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region

27 February

The Mission noted that one tank (T-72) continued to be missing.

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

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

Mine hazard signs near Stepove, Luhansk region

About 3km north-east of Stepove (non-government-controlled, 27km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed for the first time three mine hazard signs in a treeline about 5m west of road T-1309.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 27 and 28 February, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

On both days, it also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance to sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 27 and 28 February, in Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queueing to travel towards government-controlled areas and in the opposite direction. On 28 February, 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.

SMM observed gatherings in Kyiv and Lviv

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

On 27 February, the SMM monitored two gatherings in Kyiv. In front of the building of the Office of the President of Ukraine on Bankova Street, the SMM saw about 5,000 people (mixed genders and ages), many of whom were expressing opinions critical of recent court decisions regarding persons either accused or convicted in various court cases, as well as of the government. The SMM also observed about 40 law enforcement officers present. In the afternoon, in front of the building of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine on Riznytska Street, the Mission saw the same people, some of whom were calling for the resignation of the Prosecutor General and lighting and throwing smoke grenades at the building. It also saw about 50 law enforcement officers.

On 28 February, the SMM monitored a gathering of about 100 people (mixed genders and ages) in front of a memorial to Polish inhabitants of the former village Huta Peniatska near Zharkiv (79km east of Lviv) to commemorate events which occurred during the Second World War. The SMM saw some of the participants carrying Ukrainian flags and laying flowers in front of the memorial. The Mission observed around 30 law enforcement officers in the area.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 26 and 27 February, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson).

On 26 February, the Mission observed a motorcade of about 30 cars and about 70 people arrive at the checkpoint near Chonhar as part of a ceremony to mark the anniversary of 2014 events in Crimea. Upon arriving, the participants proceeded to march up to the checkpoint barriers, where the SMM then heard some of them deliver speeches. Afterwards, about 30 participants raised the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar flags. It observed a calm situation throughout the gathering.

The Mission continued monitoring in Ivano-Frankivsk, Odessa, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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.

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 27 February, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk).
- On 28 February, an SMM mini-UAV experienced strong signal interference while flying over areas near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), due to which the Mission lost spatial control over the aircraft. SMM UAVs had experienced strong signal interference during two previous flights in the area. All cases were assessed as caused by probable jamming.
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV twice experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Fedorivka (government-controlled, 71km south 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 UAVs' positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/2/2021	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm), each one loaded on a truck	Near Kasianivka (81km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
26/2/2021	6	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
27/2/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
26/2/2021	19	Tank (15 T-72 and four undetermined variants)	At a railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
27/2/2021	8	Tank (T-72)		At a railway station in Sloviansk (95km north of Donetsk)
	9	Self-propelled howitzers (probable 2S19 <i>Msta-S</i> , 152mm)		
	4	Anti-tank gun (probable MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	1	Tank (T-64), each one loaded on a truck		
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S19 <i>Msta-S</i> , 152mm)		
28/2/2021	4	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	8	Self-propelled howitzers (2S19 <i>Msta-S</i> , 152mm)		
	2	Tank (T-72)	In Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	
	12		At a railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
26/2/2021	6	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	10	Tank (undetermined variants)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/2/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
26/2/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (BRDM-variant)	Near Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (undetermined variants)	In a residential area in Novoselivka (31km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
27/2/2021	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) loaded on flatbeds of heavy equipment transporters	Near Sukha Balka (36km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
26/2/2021	3	Armoured personnel carrier (two MT-LB and one BTR-80)	In a compound in Katerynivka (formerly Yuvileine, 8km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

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

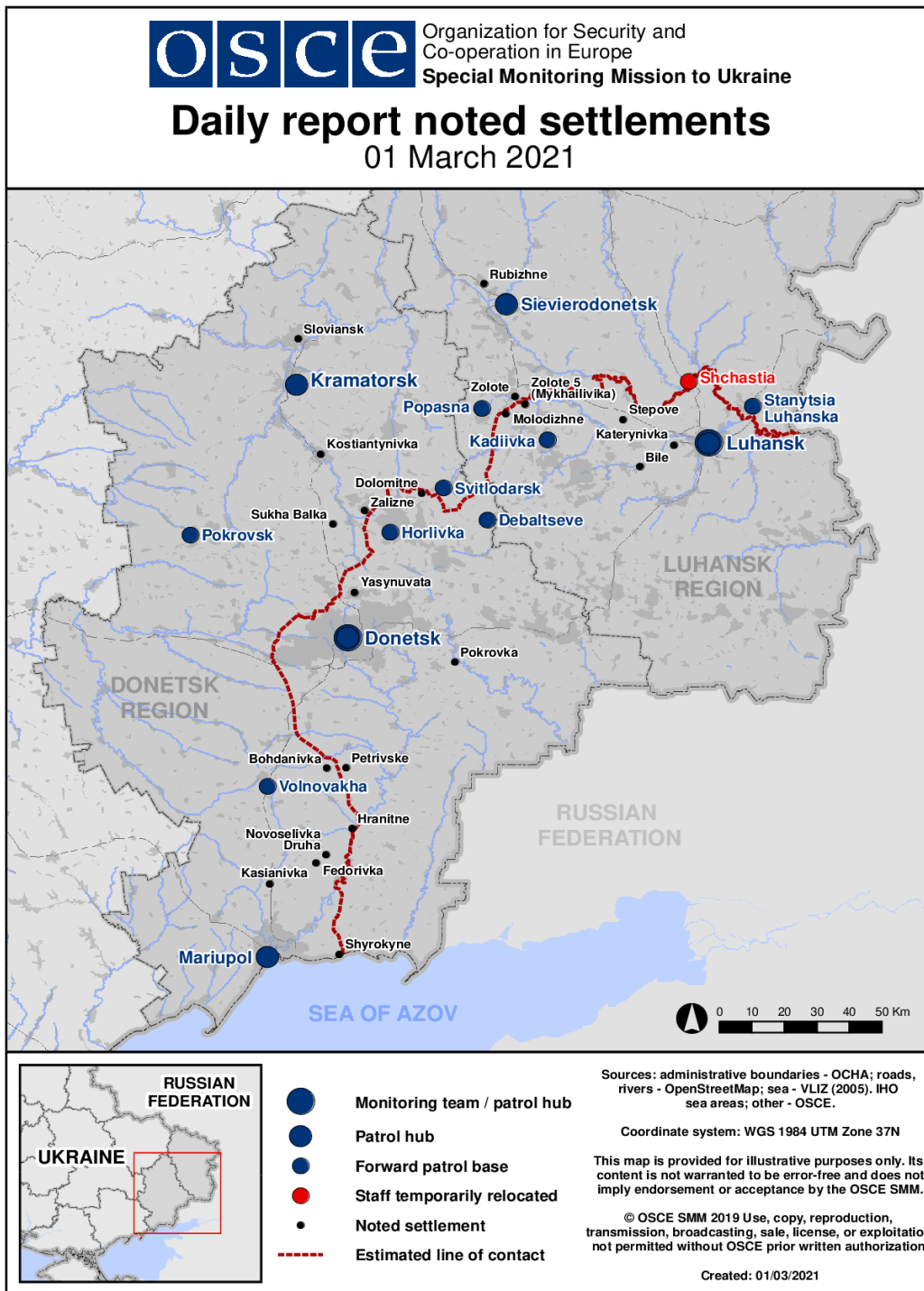
Table of ceasefire violations as of 28 February 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.8km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-Feb, 11:27
About 2.3km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Feb, 12:32
	2-3km NE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	27-Feb, 13:02
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-Feb, 00:58
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-Feb, 01:09
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-Feb, 20:31
1km S of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	5-6km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	27-Feb, 11:14
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	27-Feb, 20:39
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	27-Feb, 23:10
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Feb, 19:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	28-Feb, 01:49
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	28-Feb, 02:57

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.

Donetsk)							
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Feb, 21:32
Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km SW of Donetsk city center)	2-3km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Feb, 10:14
About 1.3km E of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	2-3km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Feb, 13:17
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	28-Feb, 09:42
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	27-Feb, 22:52

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).