

Daily Report 50/2021

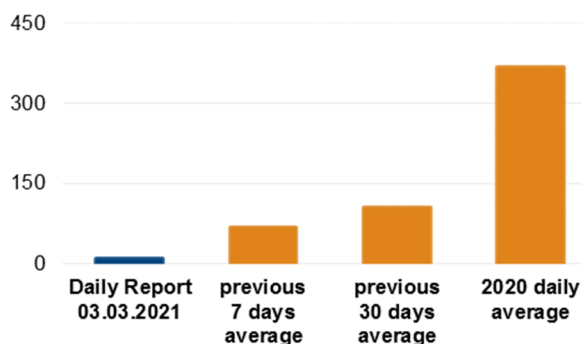
3 March 2021¹

Summary

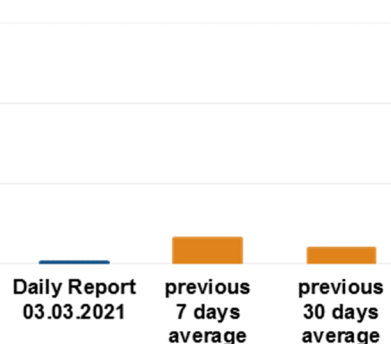
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 150 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations, as in the previous reporting period.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and recorded an undetermined explosion inside the area near Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance, 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.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 2 March 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

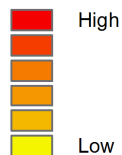


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 2 March 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: 03/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations, including an explosion inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below) and seven projectiles in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 150 ceasefire violations, the majority of which, including 71 explosions, occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

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 27 February (see [SMM Daily Report of 1 March 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 11,078 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,741 explosions, 1,271 projectiles in flight, 107 muzzle flashes, 62 illumination flares and at least 5,897 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 2 March, 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 2 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container 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 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.

While positioned near the abovementioned 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 evening of 1 March, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 2-4km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**.

On 2 March, while positioned in Petrivske, the SMM saw a white civilian car with two men (in their fifties) in military-style attire, assessed as members of the armed formations, arrive from an easterly direction and turn north onto road C-051532. Later, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, it saw the same car with the same two men arrive from the direction of Styła

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

(non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and stop about 20m north of the SMM's location on road C-051532. Both men exited the car, looking in a westerly direction (one of them with binoculars), and then continued to drive south towards Petrivske.

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.

Weapons storage sites

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

2 March

The SMM noted that four mortars (2B11 *Sani*, 120mm) were again missing.

Weapons the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At two heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region

2 March

The SMM noted that five tanks (T-72) and nine self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122 mm) were present, and that three self-propelled howitzers (2S3 *Akatsiya*, 152mm) and one surface-to-air missile system (9K35 *Strela-10*) were again missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

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

Presence of anti-tank mines near Orikhove

On 1 March, in two fields about 1.5km and 2.5km south of Orikhove (government-controlled, 57km north-west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted a total of about 210 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [4 February](#) and [28 July 2020](#)).

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

It also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and repairs of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk) and inspection and repairs of power lines near non-government-controlled Pryshyb (34km north-west of Luhansk) and Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, and near

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk). While positioned near Vodiane, the Mission recorded two bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 4–6km north-north-east.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

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

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. 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.

While positioned near the EECP near Shchastia, the SMM saw delegations of the President of Ukraine and the President of the European Council, as well as representatives of international organizations and the media, State Border Guard Service of Ukraine officers and law enforcement officers.

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 2 March 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.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
1/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	
2/3/2021	8	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near a residential area of Opytne (63km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4)	Near a residential area of Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4 <i>Bucephalus</i>)	Near Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk)	

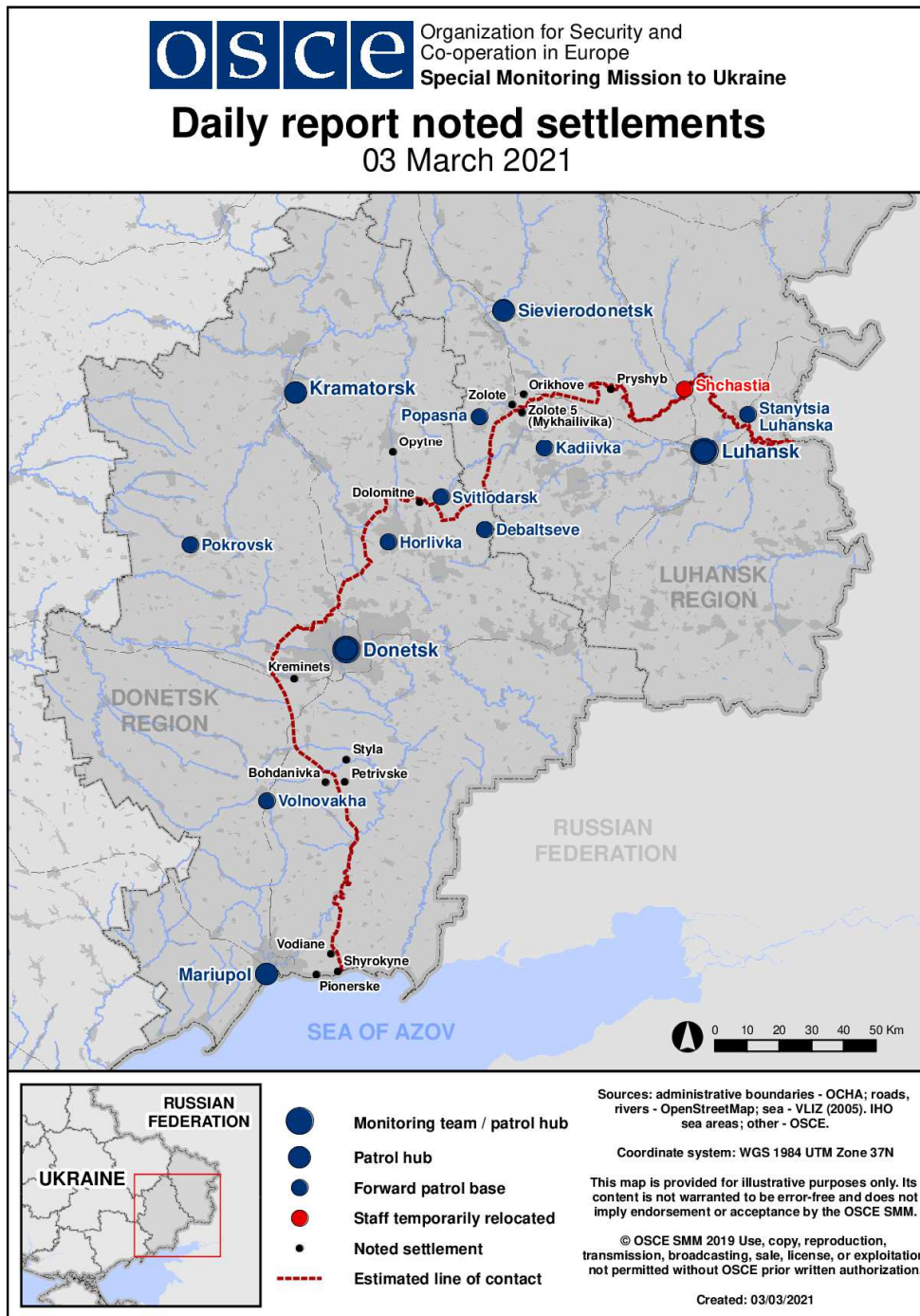
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 2 March 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government- controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	1-Mar, 20:38
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	2-Mar, 18:24
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	2-Mar, 14:00 – 14:05

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).