

Daily Report 53/2021

6 March 2021¹

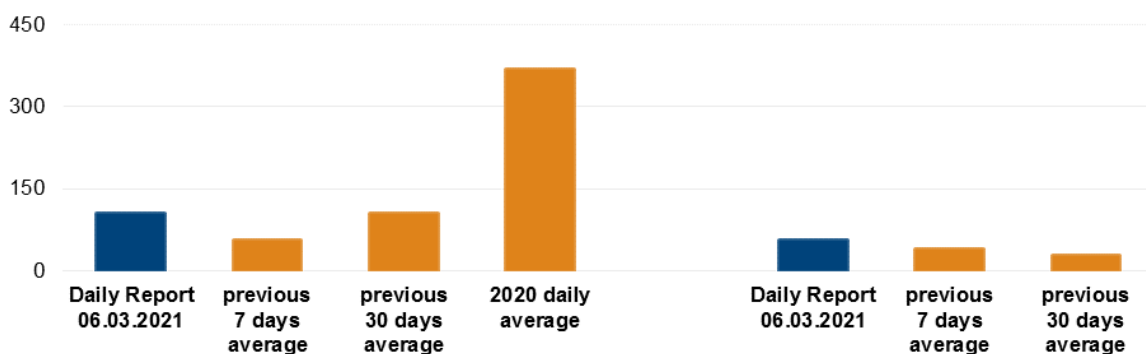
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 59 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 11 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 46 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 36 ceasefire violations.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It spotted people inside the latter two areas.
- It spotted anti-tank mines for the first time near Yasne, Donetsk region.
- 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 five entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- In Odessa, the SMM observed a march to mark International Women’s Day and a counter-protest.
- 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, 5 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, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

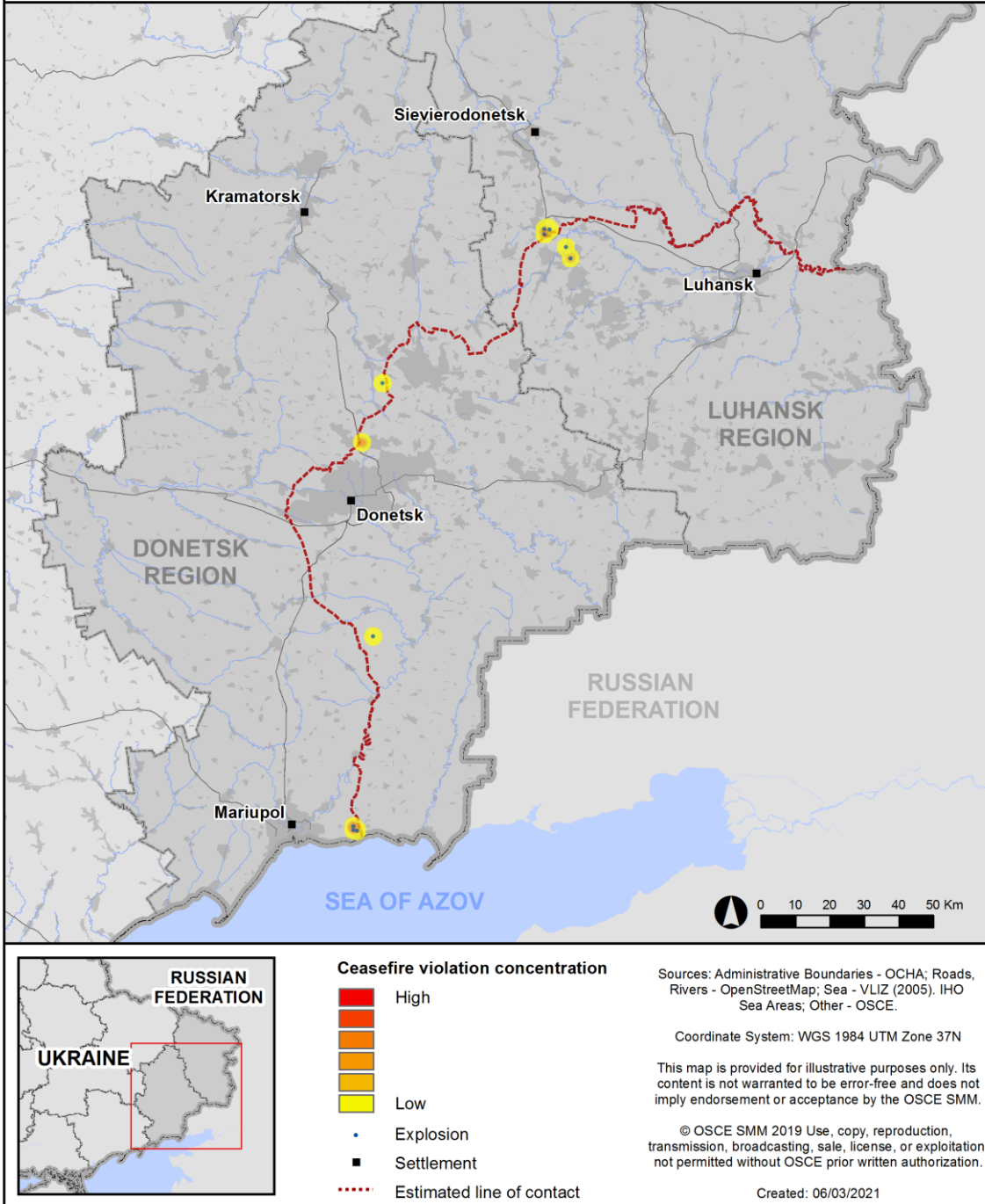
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 5 March 2021



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 59 ceasefire violations, including 29 explosions (27 undetermined and two impacts of undetermined weapons), the majority of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 11 ceasefire violations, some of which occurred at easterly and northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations, including 26 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north-west of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk) and easterly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 36 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 11,335 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,891 explosions, 1,335 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 62 illumination flares and at least 5,931 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 5 March, 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) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 4 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the area’s northern edge about 550m west of its north-eastern corner.

On the evening of 4 March, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded four undetermined explosions and 20 projectiles in flight, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On the day of 5 March, while positioned about 1.3km south-east of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the Mission recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 4-5km north-west, assessed as outside the disengagement 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 its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka. 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 about 350m north of the area’s southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-

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

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.⁶

While positioned near the abovementioned checkpoint, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), four of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. It also saw three people (one man and two women) in medical protective gear enter the disengagement area in a civilian car and then return.

On 4 March, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people in military-style clothing inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s south-eastern corner.

On 5 March, while positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 3-4km south-east, assessed as outside the disengagement 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, the SMM observed a howitzer in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and a tank in non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed nine surface-to-air missile systems, a mortar, six howitzers, and 13 tanks in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, most of which at railway stations. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM saw five armoured combat vehicles and two self-propelled anti-aircraft systems (the latter near residential houses) in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of anti-tank mines near Yasne and Sakhanka, Donetsk region

On 4 March, about 2km south of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), SMM mini- and long-range UAVs spotted for the first time 33 anti-tank mines laid across road T-0509 and in the field near the northern edge of the road and a probable mine hazard sign lying on the ground. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

⁶ In the [SMM Daily Report of 5 March 2021](#), the round white object, assessed as a satellite dish, placed on one of the electricity poles about 100m north of the area’s southern edge and 60m east of road T-1316 was not seen for the first time. It had been seen by the Mission before in that place on 30 December 2019 (see [SMM Daily Report of 31 December 2019](#)).

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

On 4 March, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 17 anti-tank mines (of which two were assessed as burned) laid across road M-14 about 2.5km south of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) and assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 1 August 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). On the morning of 4 March, while positioned near the DFS, the Mission recorded 19 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station, near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station towards Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

It also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk); railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); as well as repairs to power lines near non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (60km west of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open, with people passing through in both directions. It also noted that the EECP near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any people passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the 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 SMM observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the 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.

International Women's Day march in Odessa

At the statue of the Duke de Richelieu on Prymorskyi Boulevard, the Mission observed about 80 people (mostly women, different ages) gathered to mark International Women's Day. Nearby, it saw about 20 people holding flags and banners of the Tradition and Order group (aged 15-20, including three girls) and two teenage boys who introduced themselves as members of the National Resistance movement holding a counter-protest. The SMM also saw about 60 law enforcement officers, including 50 riot police, separating the two gatherings. Shortly after the march began, the counter-protesters clashed with the riot police and subsequently the SMM saw the police detain some of the counter-protesters. Both gatherings then dispersed without incident.

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, 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.

Other impediments:⁸

- On 4 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), and GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near government-controlled Stepanivka (54km north of Donetsk) and Zolote-4/Rodina (62km west of Luhansk), as well as non-government-controlled Sorokyne (formerly Krasnodon, 43km south-east of Luhansk) and Yasne (30km south-west of Donetsk).

⁸ 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 positions.

Table of weapons

In violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
4/3/2021	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a compound in a residential area of Zoria (40km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
5/3/2021	1	Tank (T-64)	In Brianka (46km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
4/3/2021	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In a compound in Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	At a railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	
	2	Self-propelled mortar (2S9 <i>Nona-S</i> , 120mm)		
	4	Tank (T-72)	In a compound near Kostiantynivka	
5/3/2021	6	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	At a railway station in Kostiantynivka	Patrol
	6	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a train station in Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka (66km north of Donetsk)	
	9	Tank (T-72)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
4/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Probable armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a compound near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	
5/3/2021	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

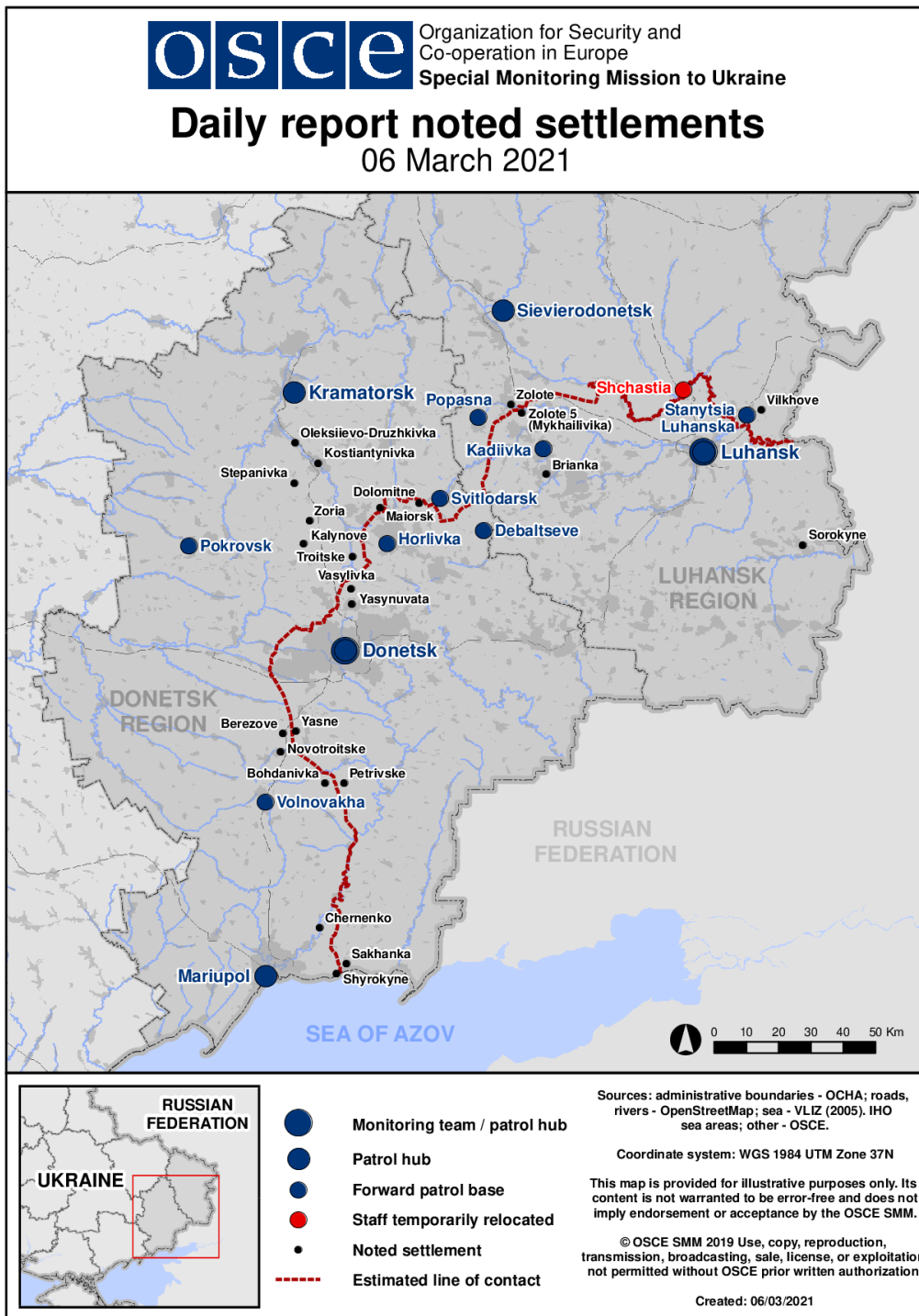
Table of ceasefire violations as of 5 March 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:06
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:11
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Muzzle flash		N/K	4-Mar, 20:15
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:20
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:21
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	4-Mar, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Mar, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Mar, 20:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:24
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:26
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:26
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	4-Mar, 20:29
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Mar, 20:29
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	4-Mar, 20:29
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:45
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:49
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 20:58
2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 21:22	
2-4km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 21:23	
3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	5-Mar, 00:15	
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	5-Mar, 00:16	
Troitske (government- controlled, 30km N of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	5-Mar, 10:33
	3-4km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 10:33
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non- government- controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km W	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	5-Mar, 09:19
	1-2km W	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	5-Mar, 09:27

¹⁰ 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.

About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Mar, 11:21
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 18:42
	1-3km ESE	Recorded	12	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 18:48
	1-3km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 19:02
	2-4km ENE	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 19:04
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 19:05
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	4-Mar, 19:05
Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	5-6km NNW	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 18:52-19:11
	8-10km NNW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Mar, 18:52-19:11
1.3km SE of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 58km NW of Luhansk)	4-5km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Mar, 12:13

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).