



Daily Report 54/2021

8 March 2021¹

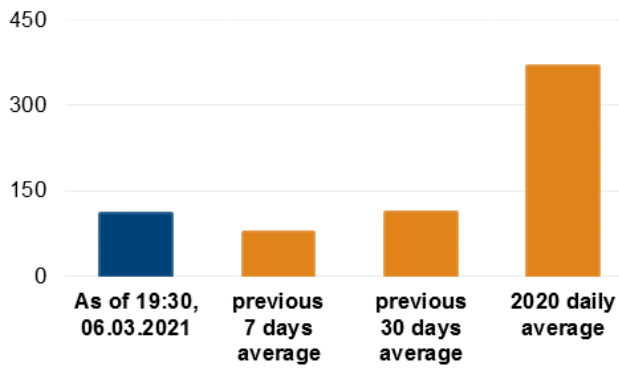
Summary

- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 March, the SMM recorded 106 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 59 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 March, the Mission recorded 12 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 46 ceasefire violations.
- An SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was lost near government-controlled Romanivka, Donetsk region. During the flight the UAV experienced a dual GPS technical failure.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- 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 their corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

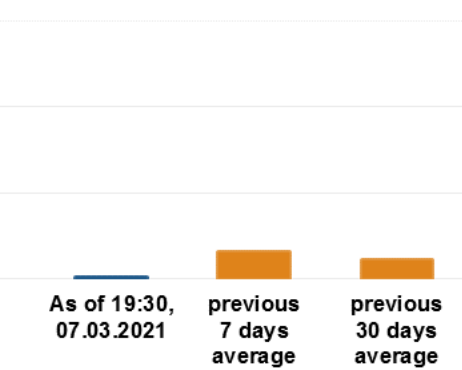
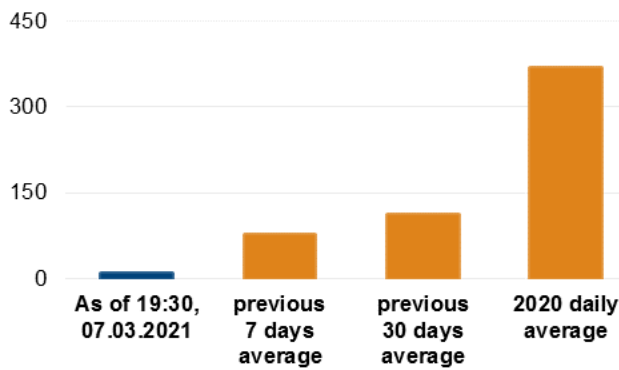
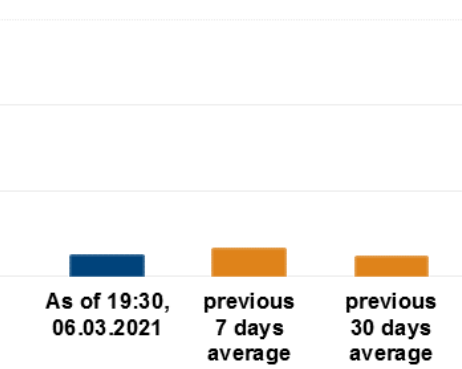
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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.

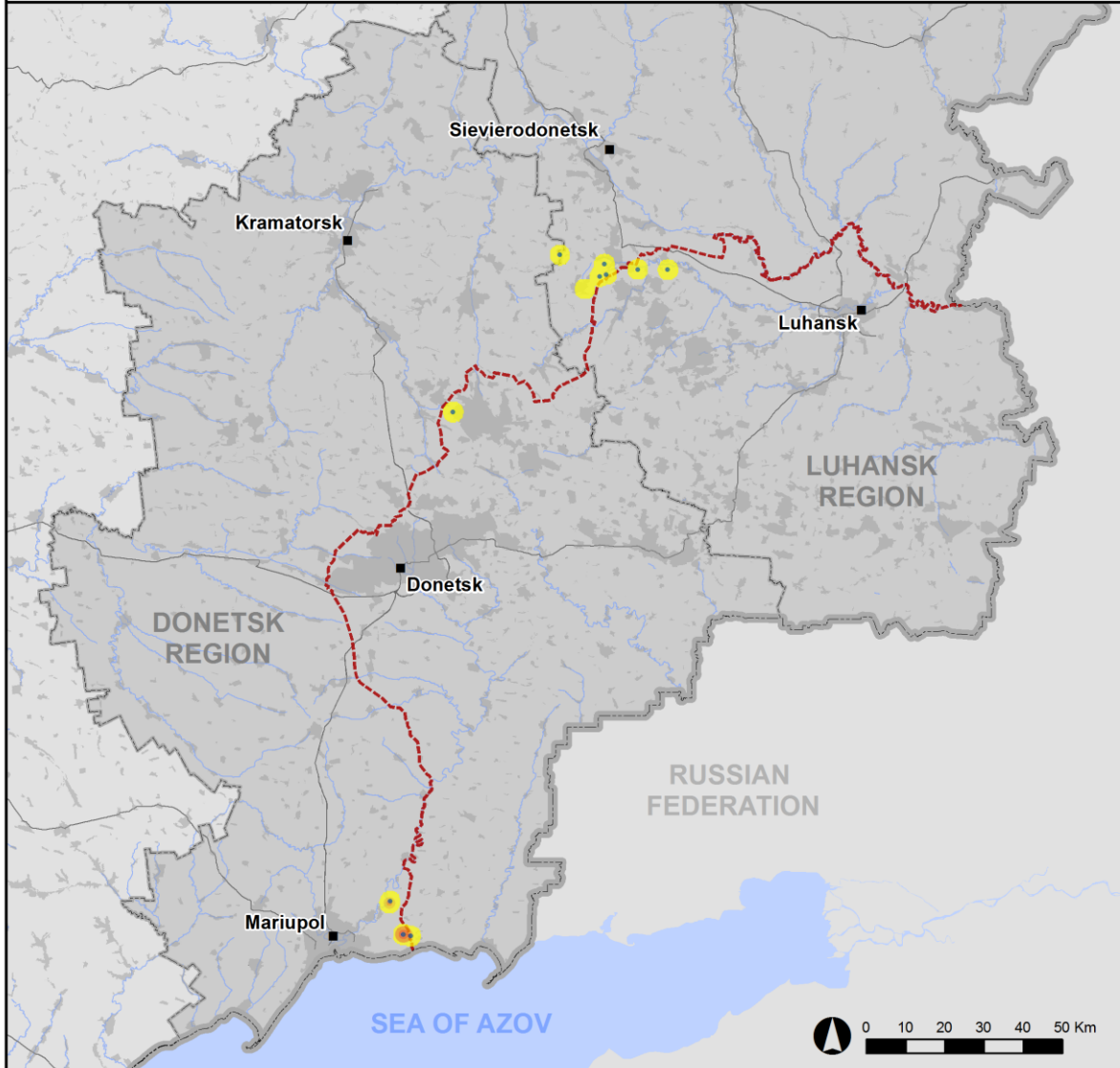
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

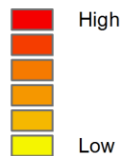
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 6-7 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.

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

Created: 08/03/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 March, the SMM recorded 106 ceasefire violations, including 25 explosions (of which 14 undetermined and 11 impacts of undetermined weapons), most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 59 ceasefire violations, the majority of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 March, the SMM recorded 12 ceasefire violations, including 11 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred at easterly and westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk)(see below) . In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations, some of which occurred close to 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 11,453 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,927 explosions, 1,416 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 62 illumination flares and at least 5,932 bursts and shots).

SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle lost near government-controlled Romanivka, Donetsk region

On the morning of 7 March, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was flying over government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. At about 12:00, while the UAV was near Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk), it experienced a dual GPS technical failure. The SMM commanded the UAV to return towards its base at Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk), and initiated an orbit manoeuvre in an effort to regain a GPS signal. The Mission gradually lost spatial control of the UAV, and commanded the aircraft to conduct an emergency landing, which was not successful. During a second landing attempt, the UAV became uncontrollable and began descending rapidly. It crashed at 14:02 in a field about 1.5km east of Romanivka (government-controlled, 41km north of Donetsk) (see [SMM Spot Report 2/2021](#)).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 6 and 7 March, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw 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 6 and 7 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. On 6 March, it also saw an ambulance with a male driver in medical protective gear enter the disengagement area and then return.

On the evening of 5 March, while in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM recorded six undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 6-8km east-north-east and east. On 6 March, while positioned at two locations close to the disengagement area near

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

Zolote, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On both days, 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 (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 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.

On 6 and 7 March, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) 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 three howitzers and a tank in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed seven surface-to-air missile systems, four self-propelled howitzers and 11 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 zone⁶

The SMM saw four armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of anti-tank mines near Pyshevyk, Donetsk region

On 5 March, in a field about 900m south-east of Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted at least 170 anti-tank mines and probable mine hazard signs (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 21 November 2020](#)).

On the same day, the UAV again spotted 1,600 anti-tank mines in fields near Pyshevyk: 800 and 800 about 1km south and 2.5km south of the settlement respectively, with mine hazard signs (some of which probable) nearby (for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Reports of 20 January 2020](#) and [22 January 2020](#)). All of the above-mentioned mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

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

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 6 and 7 March, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires in order to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) and on 7 March to enable maintenance works to a power line in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 6 and 7 March, 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 queuing to travel in both directions. On both days the SMM also observed a golf cart operating between the new section of the bridge and the EECP.

On the same days, the SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia 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 to observe a calm situation in south-east Kherson region

On 5, 6 and 7 March, the Mission 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); at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson); and in and near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson).

The Mission continued monitoring in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Odessa, 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:⁷

- On 6 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 24km north of Donetsk).
- On 7 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming while flying over areas near Zaitseve (50km north-east 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 UAV's positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
6/3/2021	3	Howitzer (type undetermined) (loaded onto trucks)	Near a residential area of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, 50km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Tank (T-72)	In Brianka (46km south-west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
6/3/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	In a compound near Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	6	Surface-to-air missile systems (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	At a railway station in Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
7/3/2021	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	At a railway station in Oleksievo-Druzhkivka (66km north of Donetsk)	
	5	Tank (T-64)	At a railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
5/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	
7/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in a residential area in Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

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 7 March 2021⁹

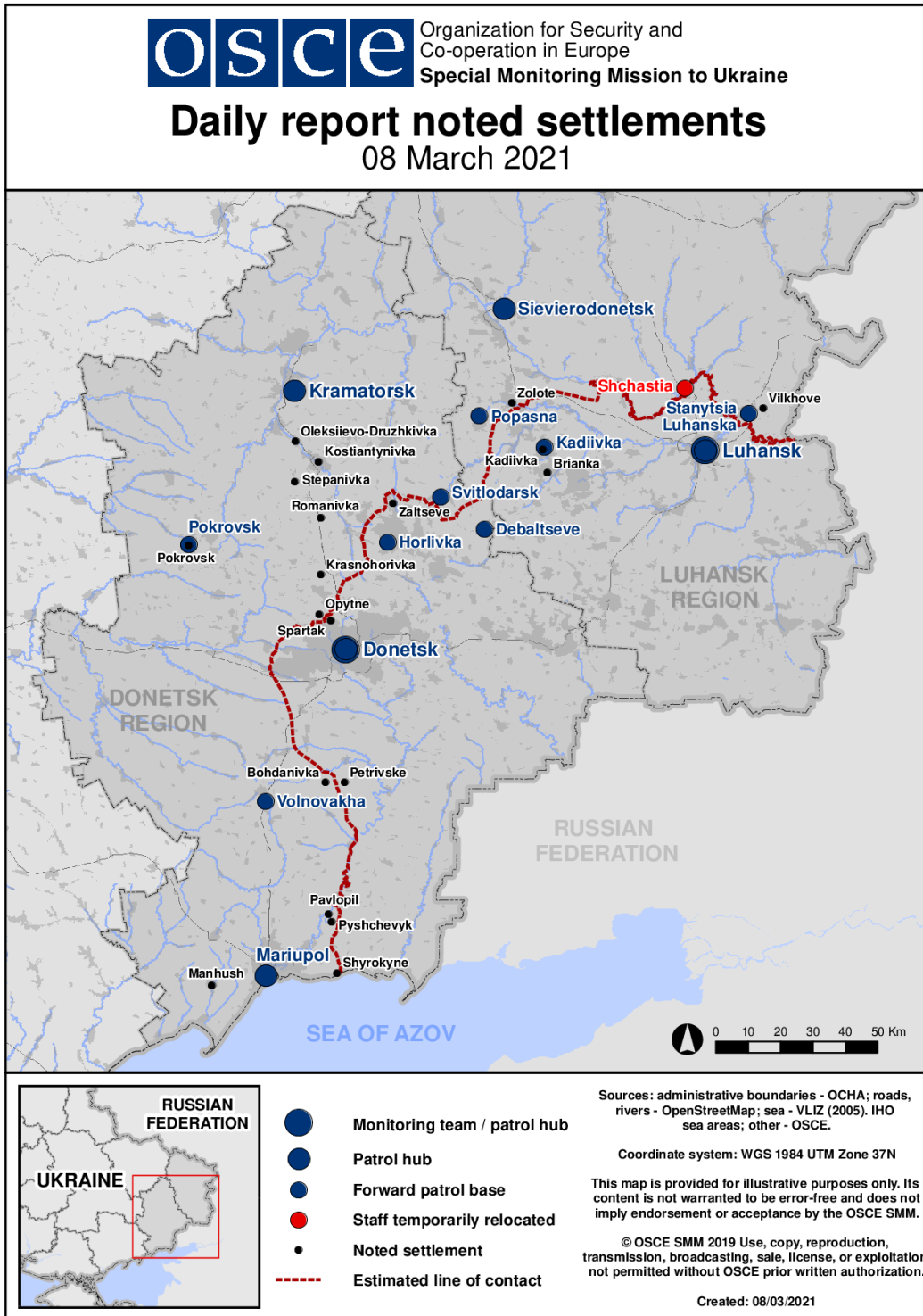
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SSW	Recorded	15	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	6-Mar, 18:08
	2-3km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Mar, 18:09
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Muzzle Flash		N/K	5-Mar, 19:00
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 19:00
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 19:00
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	5-Mar, 19:00
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 19:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 19:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 20:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Mar, 20:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 20:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 20:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 20:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 20:36
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 20:37
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 20:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 20:49
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 20:49
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Mar, 20:52	

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.

	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 21:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	8	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Mar, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 21:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	24	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Mar, 21:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 21:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	26	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Mar, 21:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Mar, 21:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	5-Mar, 21:37
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:37
About 2km WSW of Horlivka (non- government- controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km NW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Mar, 19:20- 19:35
N edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km ENE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Mar, 20:45- 20:55
	3-5km SSE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	5-Mar, 21:06

	6-8km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Mar, 21:11
	6-8km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Mar, 11:50
Pervomaisk (non- government- controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	6-7km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	6-Mar, 11:51
Zolote- 3/Stakhanovets (government- controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	6-Mar, 11:50
Khoroshe (non- government- controlled, 36km W of Luhansk)	10-15km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Mar, 11:53
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	7-Mar, 01:48
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	7-Mar, 01:50

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).