



Daily Report 60/2021

15 March 2021¹

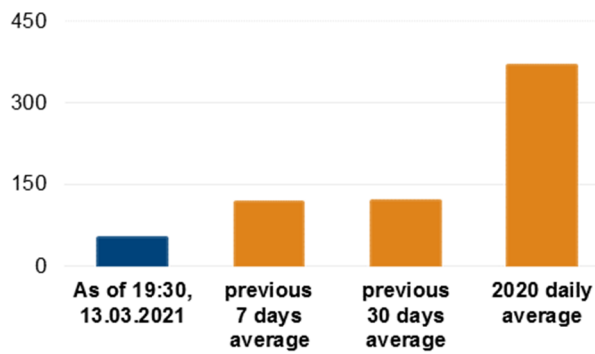
Summary

- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 12 and 14 March, the SMM recorded 143 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 79 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 12 and 14 March, the Mission recorded 31 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 202 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of its mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle near Petrivka, Donetsk region. The SMM recovered the UAV, which suffered minor damage.
- 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. It heard two undetermined explosions, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near the time of the transfer of DFS workers between Yasynuvata and the station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Diakove, Luhansk region.*

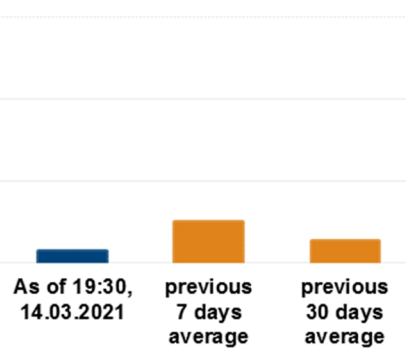
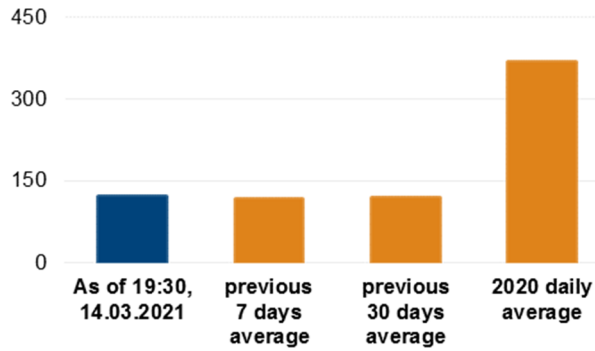
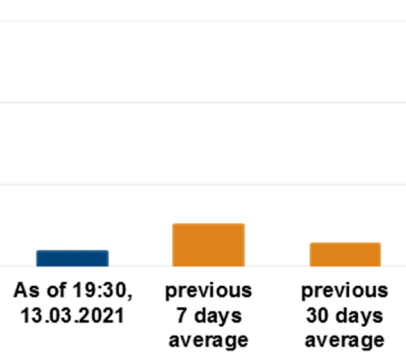
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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.

³ Including explosions.

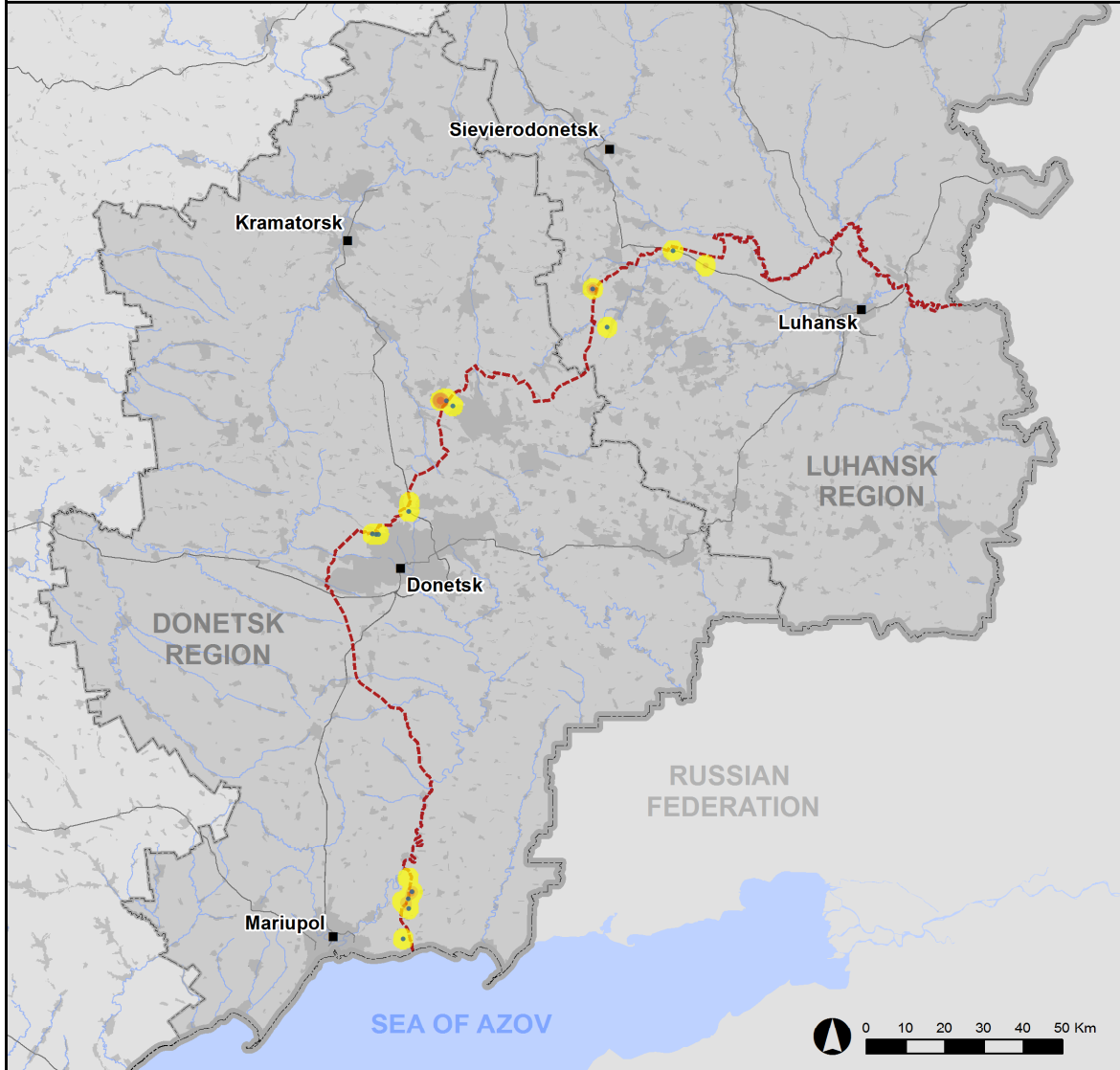
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

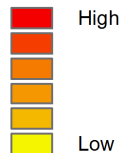


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 13-14 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: 15/03/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 12 and 14 March, the SMM recorded 143 ceasefire violations, including 33 explosions (one airburst, two impacts and 30 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at southerly directions of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and at north-easterly and easterly directions of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 79 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 12 and 14 March, the SMM recorded 31 ceasefire violations, including 12 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 202 ceasefire violations, some of which occurred in areas south-east of Popasna.

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 12,329 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,454 explosions, 1,478 projectiles in flight, 122 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,212 bursts and shots).

The SMM lost spatial control of its mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle, which suffered minor damage near Petrivka, Donetsk region.

On 14 March, the SMM was positioned about 3km south-east of Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk), to conduct an announced mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. At 12:08, while the UAV was flying over areas near Petrivka (government-controlled, 43km north of Donetsk), about 12km south-east of the SMM's position, the aircraft experienced signal interference, after which the SMM lost spatial control over it at 12:09. For about 20 minutes, the SMM attempted and was unable to re-establish connection with the UAV. Later that same day, the SMM was able to retrieve the UAV, which had sustained minor damage to its pitot tube.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 13 and 14 March, while positioned inside the **disengagement area 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 13 March and 14 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission saw 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 13 March, the members of the armed formations were accompanied by an ambulance with a male driver, carrying one man in medical protective gear.

On both days, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission 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-

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

government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area's southern edge. Inside the area, it 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.

On 13 and 14 March, while positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) respectively, 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed two surface-to-air missile systems, 22 tanks and 24 howitzers, all at railway stations in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and 27 tanks in a training area in a non-government controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM saw 12 armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 13 and 14 March, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). On 14 March, while positioned near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, which occurred near the time of the transfer of DFS workers between Yasynuvata and the station.

On both days, the SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk) and railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

On 14 March, the Mission also monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 13 March, in Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open, but did not observe any civilian traffic passing through.

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

On 13 and 14 March, in Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECF near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

On both days, the SMM also noted that the EECFs 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 observes a calm situation in south-east Kherson region

On 12 and 13 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 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.

Denial:

- On 14 March, at a checkpoint of the armed formations about 1km south of Diakove (non-government-controlled, 70km south-west of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage southwards, citing orders from his superiors. This denial prevented the Mission from reaching a border crossing point near Leonove (formerly Chervonyi Zhovten, non-government-controlled, 82km south of Luhansk).

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 14 March, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivka (government-controlled, 43km north of Donetsk), after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. The SMM was able to recover the UAV with damage to its pitot tube. (See above).

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 position.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/3/2021	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)	At a railway station in Bakhmut (formerly Artemivsk, 67km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	22	Tank (T-64)		
	5	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	
	19	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm) (four of which were loaded on rail cars)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
12/3/2021	27	Tank (20 T-64 and seven T-72)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
12/3/2021	7	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In residential areas in Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
	2	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
13/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novozvanivka (70km 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.

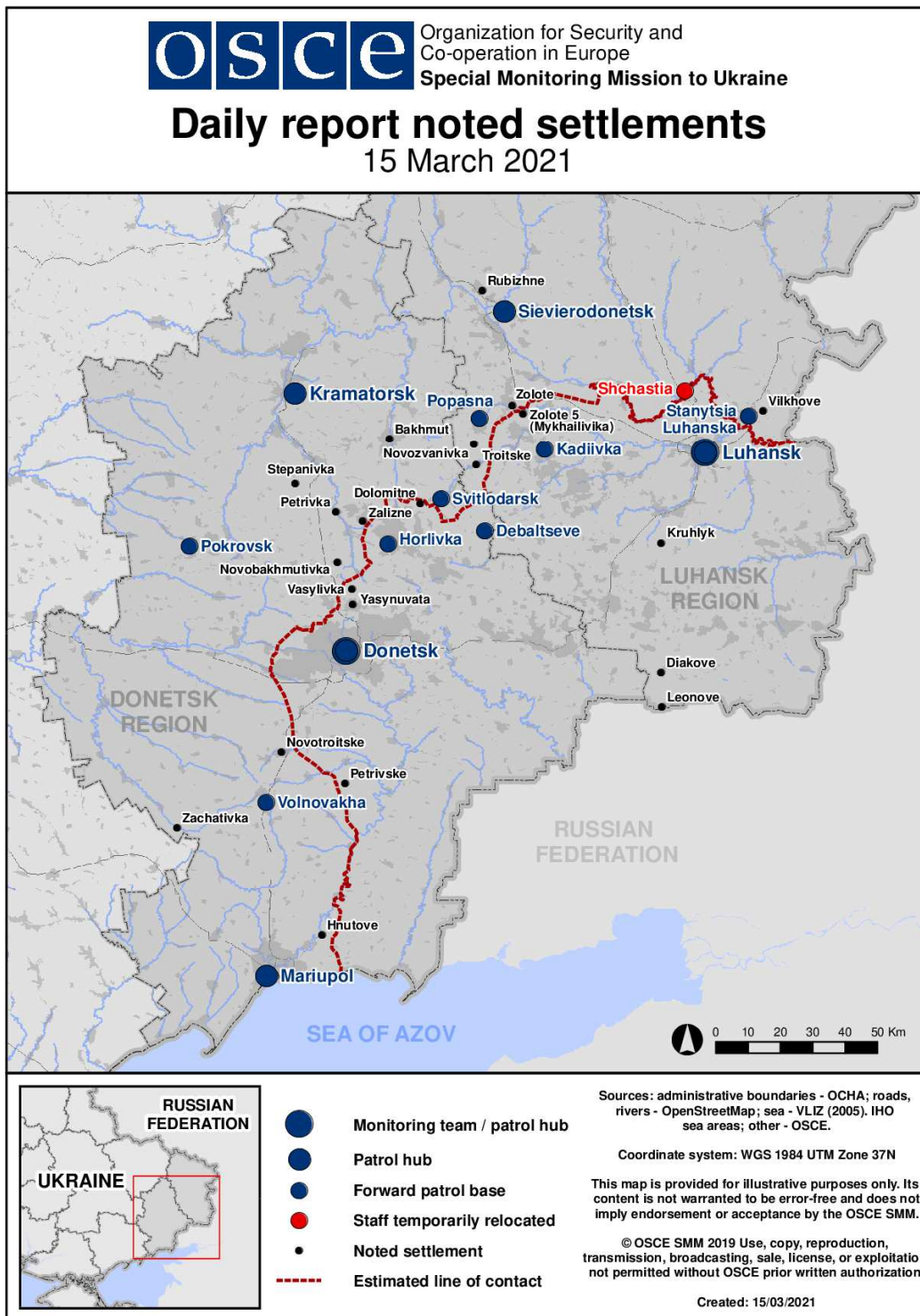
Table of ceasefire violations as of 14 March 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	500-800m SSW	Recorded	6	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Mar, 18:33
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	12-Mar, 19:29
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	12-Mar, 19:29
	3-5km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	12-Mar, 19:30
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	12-Mar, 22:06
	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	12-Mar, 22:25
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	12-Mar, 19:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	12-Mar, 21:09
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	12-Mar, 22:25
NNE edge of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	5km SE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Mar, 09:09-09:18
	2-3km E	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	13-Mar, 09:09-09:18
About 2km SW of Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Mar, 10:20-10:30
Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km W of Luhansk)	5-7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Mar, 10:21

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.

SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	0.5-1.5km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 00:02
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	14-Mar, 00:04
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	14-Mar, 00:04
	2-3km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 00:04
	2-3km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 00:06
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 09:12
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 09:15
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Heard	7	Burst		Small arms	14-Mar, 10:54
	2-3km E	Heard	11	Burst		Small arms	14-Mar, 10:58
	3-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 11:02
	2-3km E	Heard	64	Burst		Small arms	14-Mar, 11:04-11:06
About 500m E of Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 11:52
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 11:59
	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	14-Mar, 12:04
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 05:24-05:27
	4-6km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	14-Mar, 05:24-05:27
	4-6km SE	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	14-Mar, 05:24-05:27
	4-6km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 05:55-05:56
Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Mar, 09:33-09:50
Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	8-15km E	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	14-Mar, 10:35-10:38

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).