

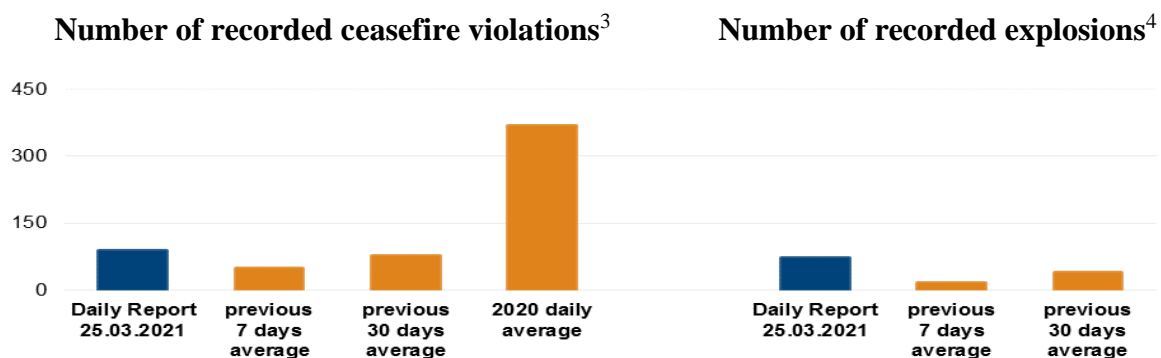
# Daily Report 69/2021

25 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 89 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded five ceasefire violations in the region.
- An explosion occurred near an SMM patrol near Kamianka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of a man injured due to small-arms fire in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure and heard an undetermined explosion near the Donetsk Filtration Station.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>



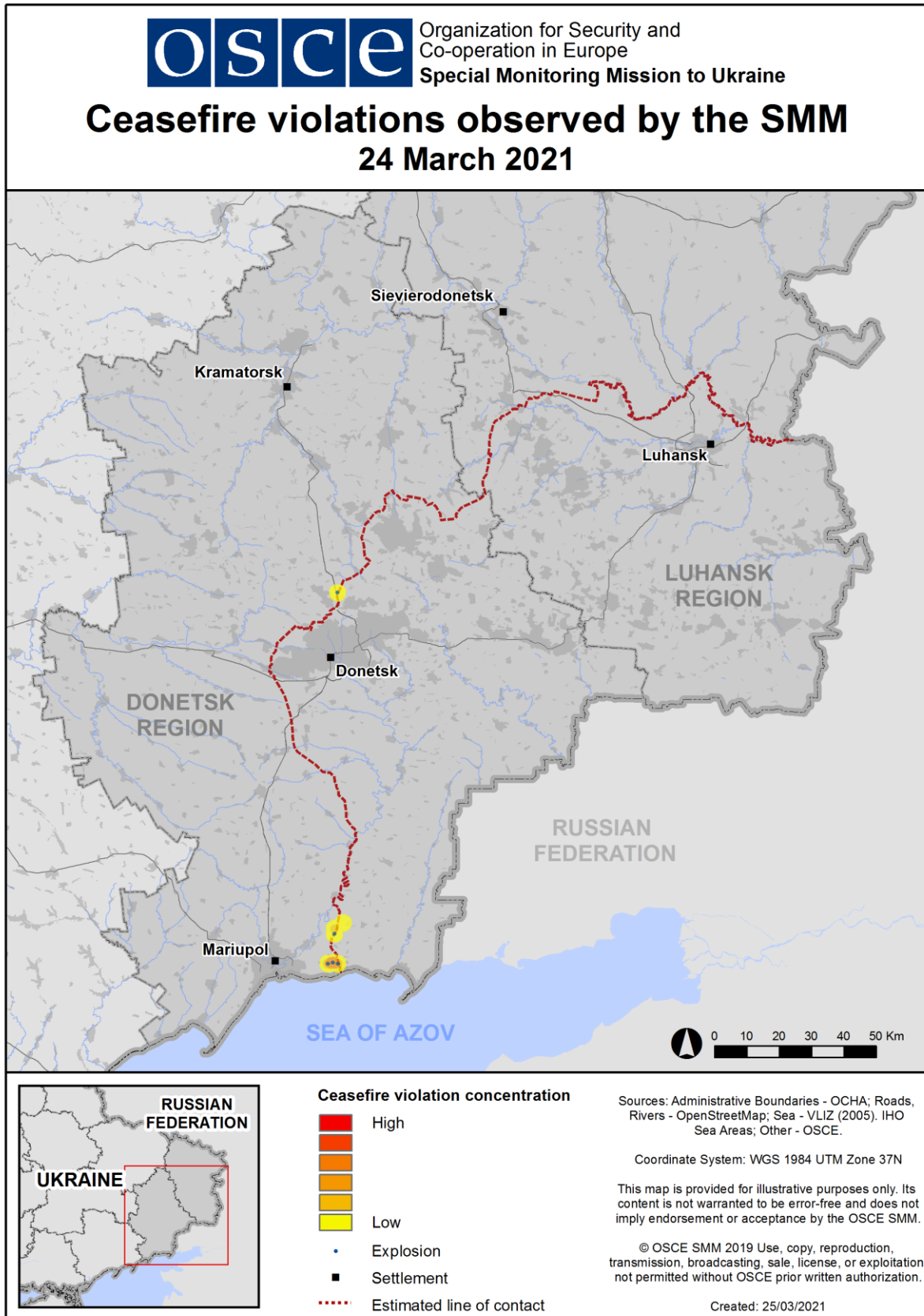
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and in the southern part of the Zolote disengagement area were not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 89 ceasefire violations, including 71 undetermined explosions. Almost all explosions occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) at night time. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded five 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 12,881 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,662 explosions, 1,540 projectiles in flight, 154 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,462 bursts and shots).

### **Explosion near SMM patrol near Kamianka, Donetsk region**

On 24 March, while positioned about 1.8km south-south-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of about 300-500m east of its position. The Mission immediately left the area, relocating to a position north-east of Kamianka.\*

### **Man injured due to small-arms fire near non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region**

The Mission followed up on reports of a man who was injured due to small-arms fire on 30 January near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).

On 23 March, a man (in his forties) told the Mission over the phone that on the evening of 30 January, while walking on Horkoho Street in the western part of Oleksandrivka near his house, about 350m east of the contact line, he had heard a shot and realized he had sustained an injury to the upper part of his left leg. He added that he had been taken to a hospital by an ambulance. According to a medical certificate he shared with the SMM on 24 March, he was admitted to hospital no.14 in Petrovskiyi district of non-government-controlled Donetsk city on 30 January with a penetrating gunshot wound to the left hip. On 31 January and 2 February, three people (two women, in their thirties and sixties and one man in his twenties) told the SMM that on the evening of 30 January, they had heard shooting near Horkoho Street in the western part of Oleksandrivka. (The Mission had previously corroborated reports of another man who sustained injuries from small-arms fire on the same street in February; see [SMM Daily Report of 16 March 2021](#).)

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 24 March, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed a calm situation. During the day on 24 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw five members of the armed formations

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

(wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by an ambulance with four people in it, two of whom in medical protective gear.

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-government-controlled, 61km 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 one about 350m north of its southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

Also on 24 March, while positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) the Mission observed a calm situation.

On 21 March, inside the disengagement area, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a small area with a table, chair and maps pinned to briefing boards, inside a former position of the armed formations near its eastern edge, about 350m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, in two locations in a field near the northern edge of road C-051532, about 320m west-north-west of the area’s north-eastern corner, the same UAV spotted for the first time eight anti-tank mines (not seen in imagery from 21 September 2020) and in a field south of the same road, about 130m west-north-west of the area’s north-eastern corner, the Mission spotted eight anti-tank mines (of which three had been seen before; for previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 26 January 2021](#)). Additionally, along the area’s southern edge, near its south-eastern corner, the UAV again spotted about 40 anti-tank mines. All of these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

### **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 two tanks in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including in a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines in fields north of Petrivske, Donetsk region**

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

On 21 March, in a field about 2km north of Petrivske, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted a single anti-tank mine. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 2 December 2020](#).) In a field about 1.7km north of Petrivske and about 170m east of road C-051532, it [again](#) spotted a transparent plastic bag filled with about 20 anti-personnel mines (assessed as PMN-2-type) lying on the ground. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

### **SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. (See above.) While positioned at a location near Kamianka, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the station. (See above.)

The Mission also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to a water pipeline near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk); and maintenance and repairs of sewage treatment installations near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk).

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but 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 SMM 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 23 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:<sup>7</sup>

- On 24 March, a mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Zhelanne Pershe (government-controlled, 29km north-west of Donetsk).
- While positioned about 1.8km south-south-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of about 300-500m east of its location. The Mission immediately left the area, relocating to a position north-east of Kamianka.

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<sup>7</sup> 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 in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/3/2021	2	Tank (T-64 <i>Bulat</i> )	Near Dokuchaievsk (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

### Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
23/3/2021	8	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a residential area of Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/3/2021	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Dokuchaievsk (30km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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<sup>8</sup> 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 24 March 2021<sup>9</sup>**

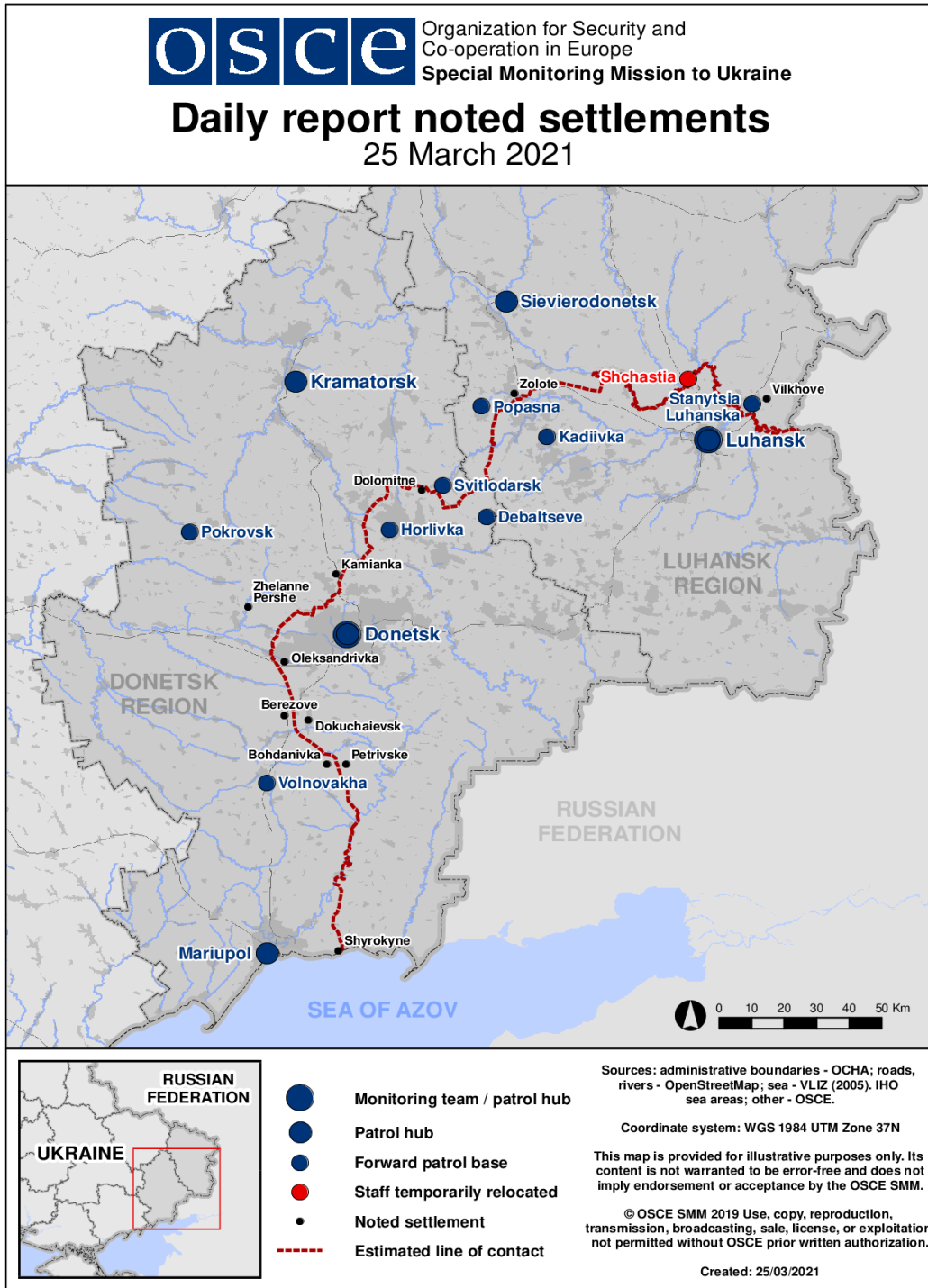
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	23-Mar, 22:27
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	23-Mar, 22:53
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	23-Mar, 23:16
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	23-Mar, 23:16
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	23-Mar, 23:17
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:46
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:48
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	23-Mar, 23:06
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Mar, 20:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	23-Mar, 20:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 21:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Mar, 22:37
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Mar, 23:16
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:16
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	23-Mar, 23:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:18
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:19
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:21
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:22
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:24
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:27
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:39
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:39
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:41
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:44
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:46
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:47
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:47
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:48
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:48
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:49
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:50
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:51
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:51	
3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:52	
3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:53	

<sup>9</sup> 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.



	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:54
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:54
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:55
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:56
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:57
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:57
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:58
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Mar, 23:59
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:00
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:01
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:02
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:03
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:10
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:11
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:11
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:13
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 00:13
About 1.8km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	300-500m E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Mar, 12:48

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).