

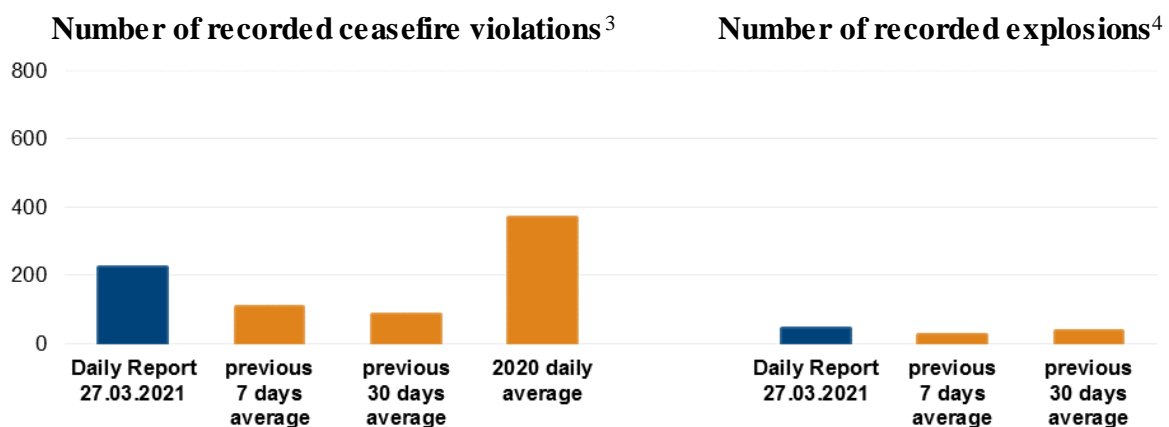
Daily Report 71/2021

27 March 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 74 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 493 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 149 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the 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. It heard five undetermined explosions, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station, near the time of the transfer of workers between the station and Yasynuvata.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 26 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 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.

³ Including explosions.

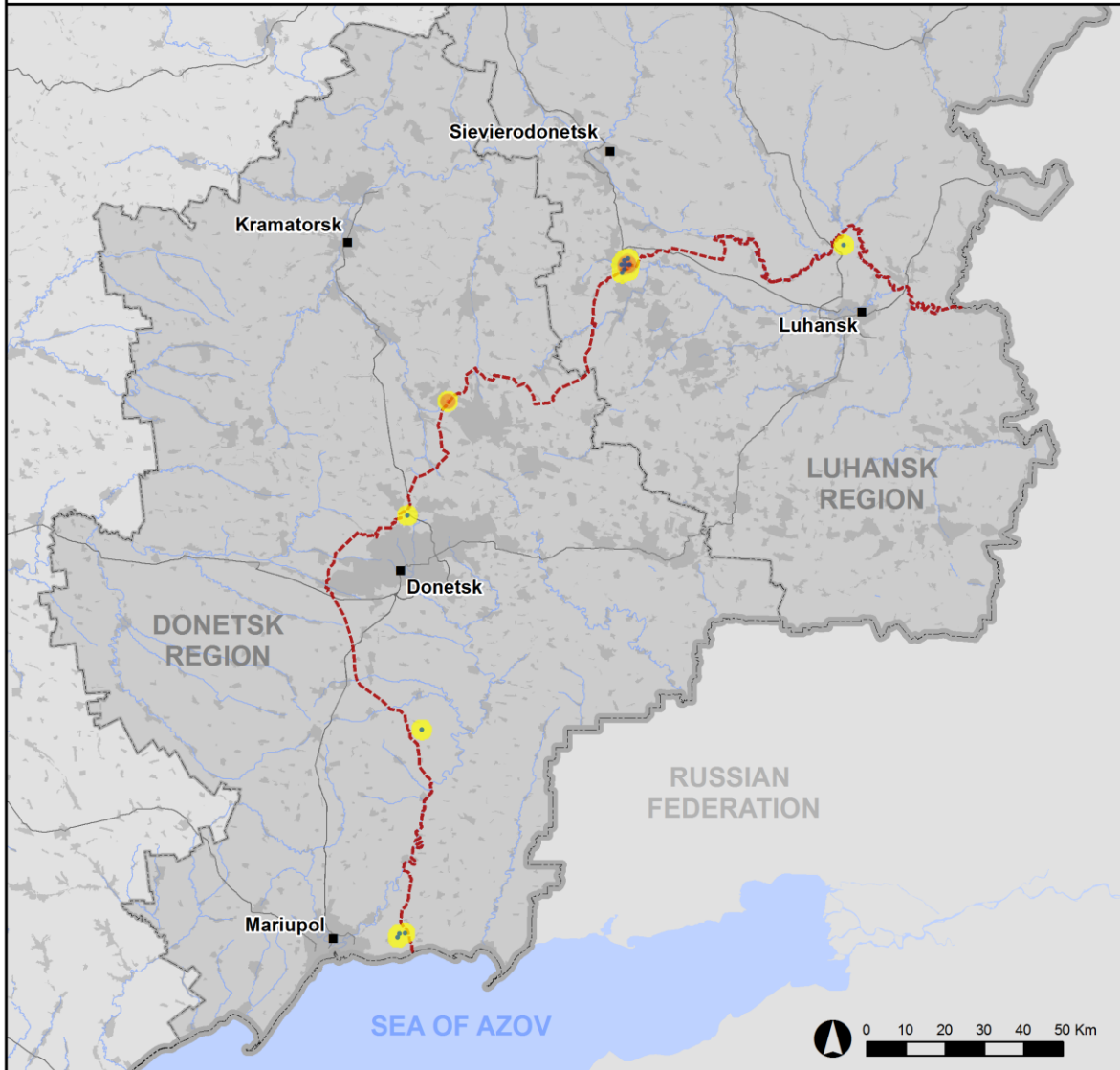
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

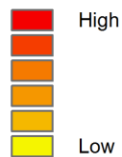


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 26 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: 27/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 74 ceasefire violations, including nine undetermined explosions. Almost all ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) and at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 493 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 149 ceasefire violation, including 35 undetermined explosions. Almost all ceasefire violations occurred at northerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.

Following the 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 13,598 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,736 explosions, 1,638 projectiles in flight, 167 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,994 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 26 March, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw three 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 the evening of 25 March, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded eight undetermined explosions, three projectiles in flight, four muzzle flashes and three bursts of undetermined weapons, at an assessed range of 2-5km east-south-east, all unable to be assessed whether inside or outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**. The same camera also recorded 26 undetermined explosions, 95 projectiles in flight and nine muzzle flashes, at an assessed range of 1-5km east-north-east and east, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 26 March, 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.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the SMM saw seven members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), one of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) the SMM heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-5km south-

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

south-east and assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, but within 5km of its periphery.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in the implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

Anti-tank mines near Holmivskiyi and Travneve, Donetsk region

On 25 March, about 1.2km north of Holmivskiyi (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) [again](#) spotted eleven anti-tank mines laid across a road leading to Travneve (government-controlled, 51km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

About 800m west-south-west of Travneve, and about 1km north-north-west of the previous anti-tank mines, the same UAV also [again](#) spotted 28 anti-tank mines laid across the same road, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard five undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station. The abovementioned explosions occurred near the time of the transfer of DFS workers between the station and Yasynuvata.

The Mission also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) as well as to enable maintenance to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka.

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) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with traffic passing through in both directions.

While positioned near the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed that it was open, but did not observe any traffic 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 queuing 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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM did not observe any people or vehicles entering or exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about one hour, the Mission observed 27 cars (including 20 with “DPR” plates), 15 covered cargo trucks (including three with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, with 50 and 25 passengers respectively, mixed genders and ages) and 29 pedestrians (14 women and 13 men, mixed ages and two children) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 43 cars (including 30 with “DPR” plates), six covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates) and 19 pedestrians (12 women and five men, mixed ages and two children) exiting Ukraine.

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 the 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:⁶

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

⁶ 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 ceasefire violations as of 26 March 2021⁷

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|---|----------------|----------|-----|-------------|--|--------|---------------------|
| About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk) | 3-5km ENE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 26-Mar, 12:12 |
| About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk) | 2-4km NNE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 26-Mar, 12:54 |
| | 3-5km NNE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 26-Mar, 13:12 |
| About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk) | 3-5km SSE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 26-Mar, 11:44 |
| About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk) | 3-5km SW | Heard | 5 | Explosion | Undetermined (inside 5km around DFS) | N/K | 26-Mar, 13:18-13:21 |
| About 8.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk) | 2-5km NNW | Heard | 65 | Burst | | HMG | 26-Mar, 13:45-13:49 |
| SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk) | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:11 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:13 |

⁷ 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.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|--------------|--|-----|---------------|
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:14 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:16 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:19 |
| | 3-5km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:25 |
| | 3-5km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:25 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:25 |
| | 1-3km E | Recorded | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:30 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | S to N (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:30 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:30 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 3 | Muzzle flash | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:30 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:30 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | WNW to ESE (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:31 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:31 |

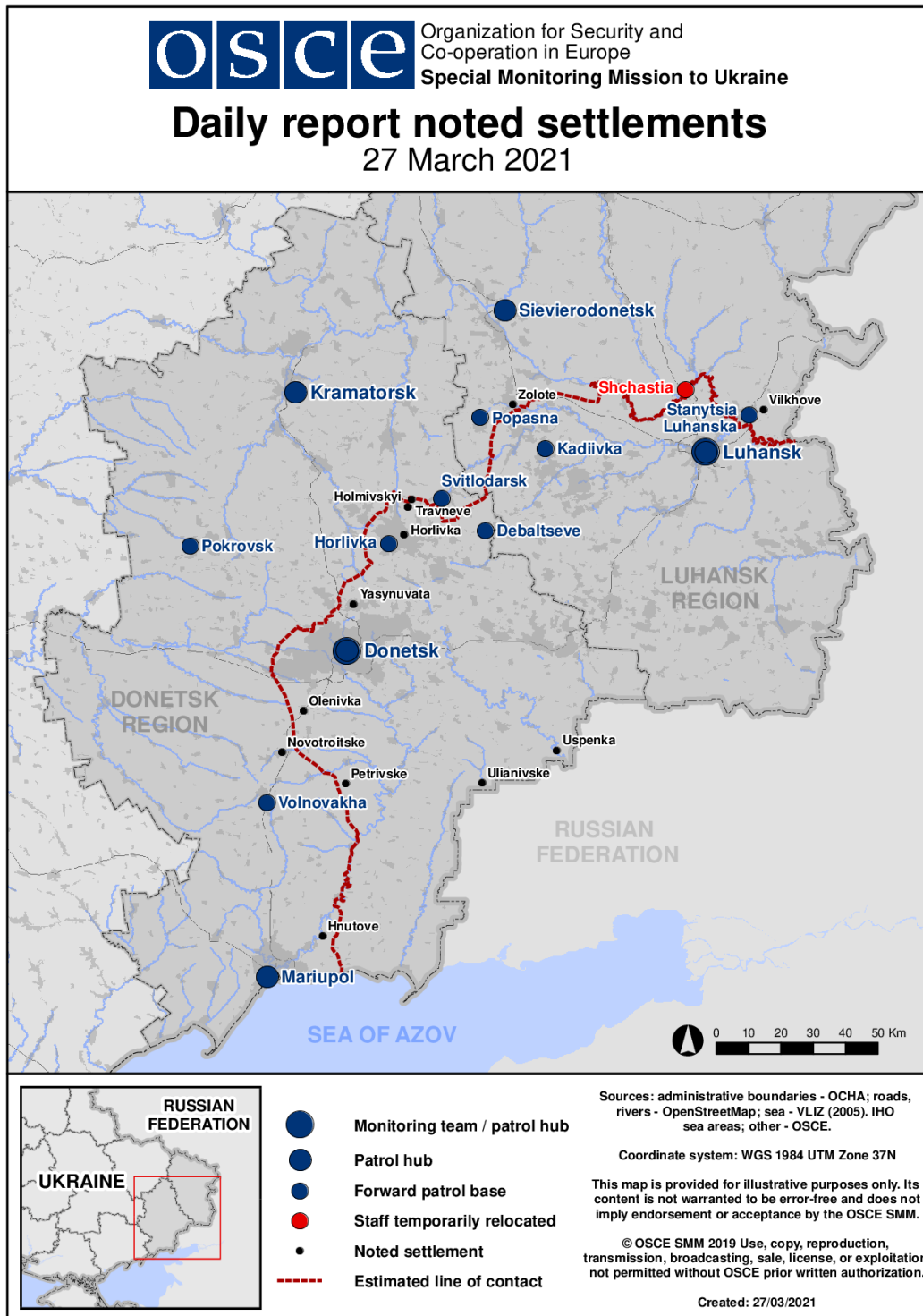
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|-----------|----------|---|--------------|--|-----|---------------|
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:31 |
| 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:32 |
| 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:32 |
| 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:33 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:33 |
| 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:33 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:34 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | ESE to WNW (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:34 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 3 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:35 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:35 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:35 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 9 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:36 |
| 2-4km E | Recorded | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:36 |
| 3-5km E | Recorded | 6 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:36 |

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|--|-----------|----------|---|--------------|--|-----|---------------|
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | W to E (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:36 |
| | 2-4km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 2-4km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | WSW to ENE (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 3-5km ENE | Recorded | 7 | Projectile | SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 5 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 3-5km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | SSW to NNE (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 4 | Muzzle flash | Unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:37 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:38 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:39 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:39 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 7 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:40 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 3 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:40 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:41 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|--------------|--|-----|---------------|
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:41 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 3 | Projectile | E to W (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:42 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:42 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:42 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:42 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:42 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:43 |
| | 2-4km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:43 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | SSE to NNW (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:44 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:44 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:44 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Muzzle flash | Assessed as outside the disengagement area | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:44 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:45 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|------------|--|-----|---------------|
| | 2-4km ENE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:45 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 5 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:45 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:45 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:48 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 20:48 |
| | 3-5km ENE | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 22:28 |
| | 2-4km ESE | Recorded | 3 | Burst | N to S (approximately 30 rounds (unable to assess whether inside or outside the disengagement area)) | N/K | 25-Mar, 22:28 |
| | 3-5km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area) | N/K | 25-Mar, 23:16 |
| S edge of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk) | 4km NE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 26-Mar, 11:27 |

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁸



⁸ 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).