

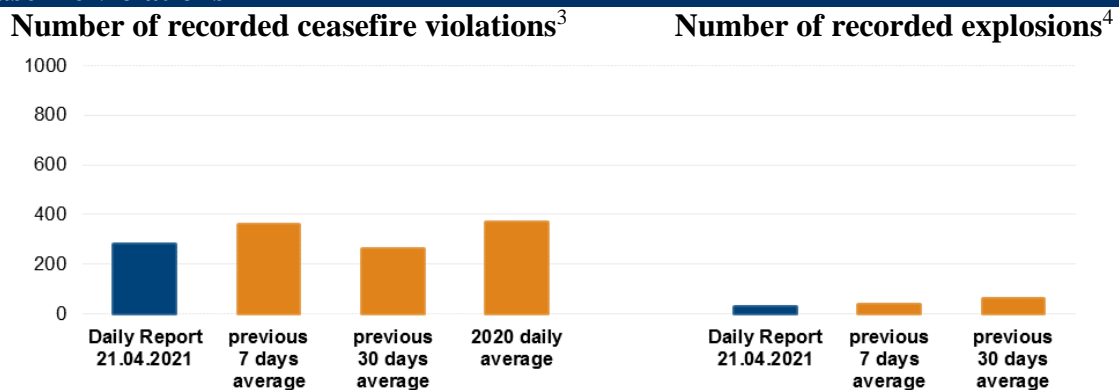
Daily Report 91/2021

21 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 279 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 138 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 27 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It spotted people inside the latter two disengagement areas during night time.
- In violation of withdrawal lines, SMM unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) spotted weapons on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including 12 multiple launch rocket systems, six near Kaiutyne and six near Chornukhyne.
- The Mission 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 the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point outside government control near Voznesenivka. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 April 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske and the SMM camera system at the Oktiabr mine were not operational. Weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

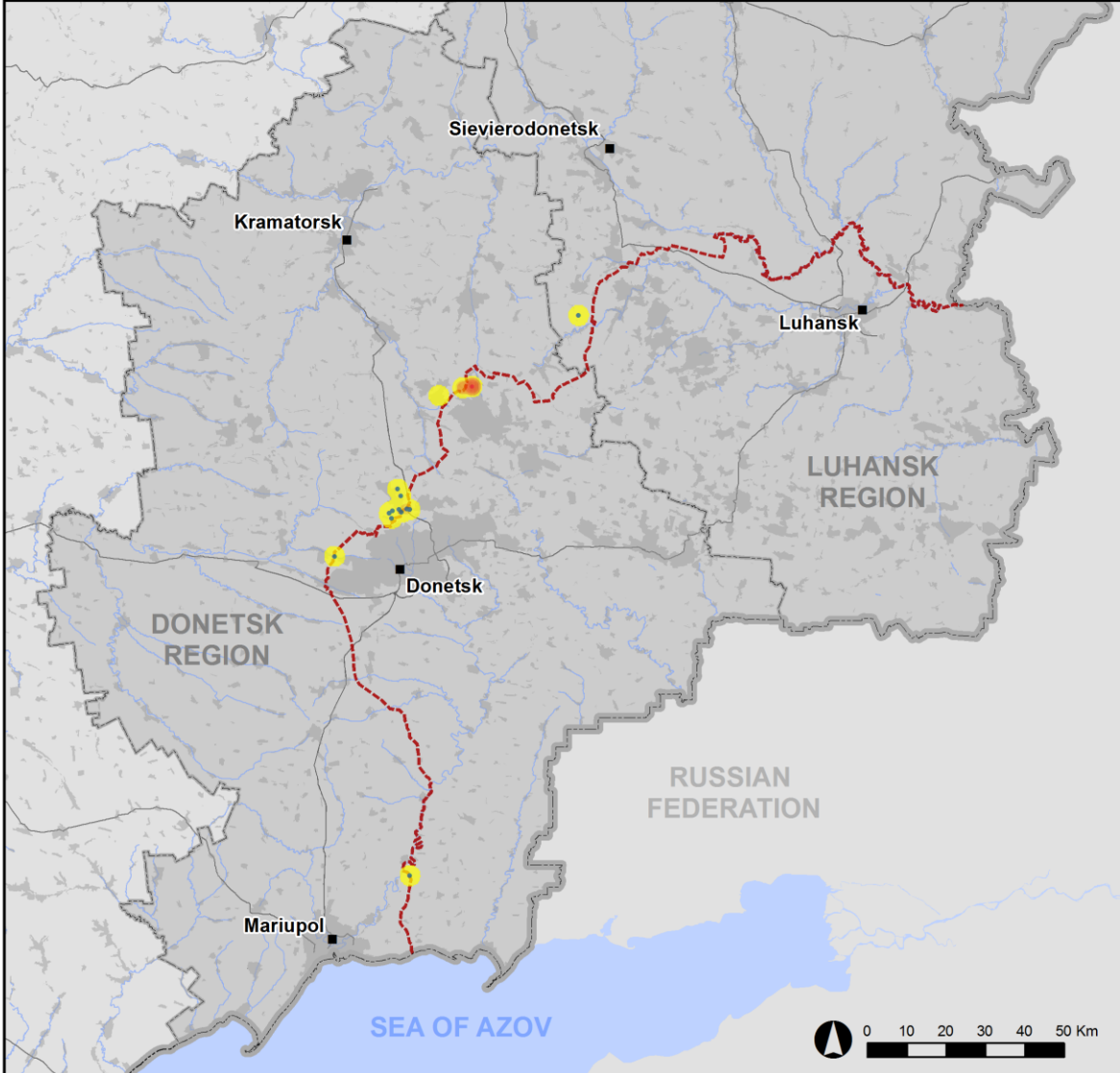
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

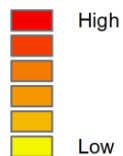


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 20 April 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: 21/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 279 ceasefire violations, including 23 explosions (three airbursts and 20 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at easterly directions of Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 138 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, which occurred in an area south of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 27 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 20,898 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 6,414 explosions, 2,397 projectiles in flight, 190 muzzle flashes, 76 illumination flares and at least 11,821 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two 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).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. The Mission again saw the eight previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

On the evening of 17 April, inside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted three people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 800m south-west of the railway bridge (an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people at this location on 18 April), as well as three people inside a former position of the armed formations about 1.5km north of the area’s south-eastern corner, near its eastern edge.

On 16 April, outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), about 1.5km east-south-east of its north-eastern corner, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time 80 anti-tank mines laid in a field, about 150m south of a residential area, and three anti-tank mines laid in a field about 1km further south. About 800m east-north-east and 2.5km north of the north-eastern corner of the area, the same UAV again spotted 30 and 40 anti-tank mines, respectively, laid in fields. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [19 June 2020](#) and of [8 April 2020](#).)

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

During the night of 17-18 April and on the evening of 18 April, inside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two people, respectively, inside a former position of the armed formations about 350m north-north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

On the evening of 18 April, also inside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted one person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m east-north-east of the area's south-western corner. The same UAV spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations about 150m west-north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM 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 one surface-to-air missile system in a residential area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region as well as 12 multiple launch rocket systems: six (one of which being towed by a truck) near Kaityne (non-government-controlled, 47km north-east of Donetsk) and six near Chornukhyne (non-government-controlled, 64km south-west of Luhansk).

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw one surface-to-air missile system in a compound in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. In a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, it observed 42 tanks in a training area. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission saw three anti-aircraft guns and 23 armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in residential areas, nine armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, as well as 18 armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, in training and residential areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

Anti-tank mines near Yasne and in Donetsk city, Donetsk region

On 13 April, on the eastern outskirts of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time two anti-tank mines placed on the road T0509, and about 1km and 1.5km north-west, the UAV also spotted six anti-tank mines (seen for the first time) and ten anti-tank mines (five of which seen for the first time) respectively, on the eastern edge of the same road. About 1km north-west of the two anti-tank mines, the UAV spotted for the first time 50 anti-tank mines laid in a field. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations. For the ones seen for the first time, the Mission was unable to assess if recently laid. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 21 July 2019](#).)

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

On 20 April, at the checkpoint of the armed formations on Artemivska Street in Donetsk city's Kyivskiy district, the Mission saw for the first time 16 anti-tank mines laid in two rows on a road, near 16 [previously observed](#) anti-tank mines in the same area.

On 19 April, while positioned in Raivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north-west of Luhansk) and in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), the SMM heard two explosions respectively, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

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). While positioned at two locations near the station, the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. While positioned near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard one explosion, assessed as a controlled detonation of UXO.

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

The Mission monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

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 Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia 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 positioned at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), for about ten minutes, the SMM observed 81 stationary cargo railway cars (80 wagons with covered cargo and one wagon loaded with wooden logs).

While positioned at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka, the Mission observed one car (with "LPR" plates) entering Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

The SMM also monitored the area along the border outside government control near Chervona Zoria (84km east of Donetsk), Dmytrivka (85km east of Donetsk), Dibrivka (93km east of Donetsk), Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), Uspenka (73km south-east of

Donetsk), Ternove (57km east of Donetsk) and Kalynove (72km east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

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, 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 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 below.) 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:

- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), after about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, citing “order from superiors”.

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 17 April, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk) and Burchak-Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 14km east of Luhansk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka and Staryi Aidar (government-controlled, 20km north-west of Luhansk).
- On 18 April, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka and Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), between Kozatske (non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk) and Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 74km

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

south-east of Donetsk), and between Mykhailivka and Stepanivka, as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Talakivka and Kozatske.

- On 20 April, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

| Date | No. of weapons | Type of weapon | Location | Source of observation |
|--|----------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 17/4/2021 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>) | In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 19/4/2021 | 6 | Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm) (one of which being towed by a truck) | Near Kaiutyne (47km north-east of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| | 6 | Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm) | In Chornukhyne (64km 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 | | | | |
| 17/4/2021 | 1 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>) | In a compound near Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV |
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 18/4/2021 | 42 | Tank (T-72) | In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk), where it also saw 23 armoured combat vehicles | Long-range UAV |

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

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation | |
|------------------------------------|-----|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | | |
| 17/4/2021 | 2 | Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) | Near a residential area near Dyliivka (52km north of Donetsk) | Long-range UAV | |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | | | |
| | 3 | Armoured personnel carrier (two MT-LB and one MT-LB M) | In a residential area of Taramchuk (29km south-west of Donetsk) | | |
| | 4 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant) | | | |
| | 1 | Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2) | | | |
| | | 1 | Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) | | In a residential area of Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk) |
| | | 1 | Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2) | | |
| | 2 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | | | |
| 18/4/2021 | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) | Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk) | Patrol | |
| | 3 | Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP-1 and one BMP-2) | In a residential area of Bohdanivka (41km north-west of Donetsk) | | |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | In a residential area of Odradivka (59km north of Donetsk) | | |
| 20/4/2021 | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) | Near Kamianka (20km north of Donetsk) | Patrol | |
| | 1 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant) | Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk) | | |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70) | In a residential area of Kyrylivka (76km south of Donetsk) | | |
| | 1 | Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2) | In a residential area of Starohnativka (51km south of Donetsk) | | |
| | 2 | Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2) | Near Starohnativka (51km south of Donetsk) | | |
| | 1 | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80) | Near Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) | | |
| 17/4/2021 | 3 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Novooleksandrivka (65km west of Luhansk) | Long-range | |

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

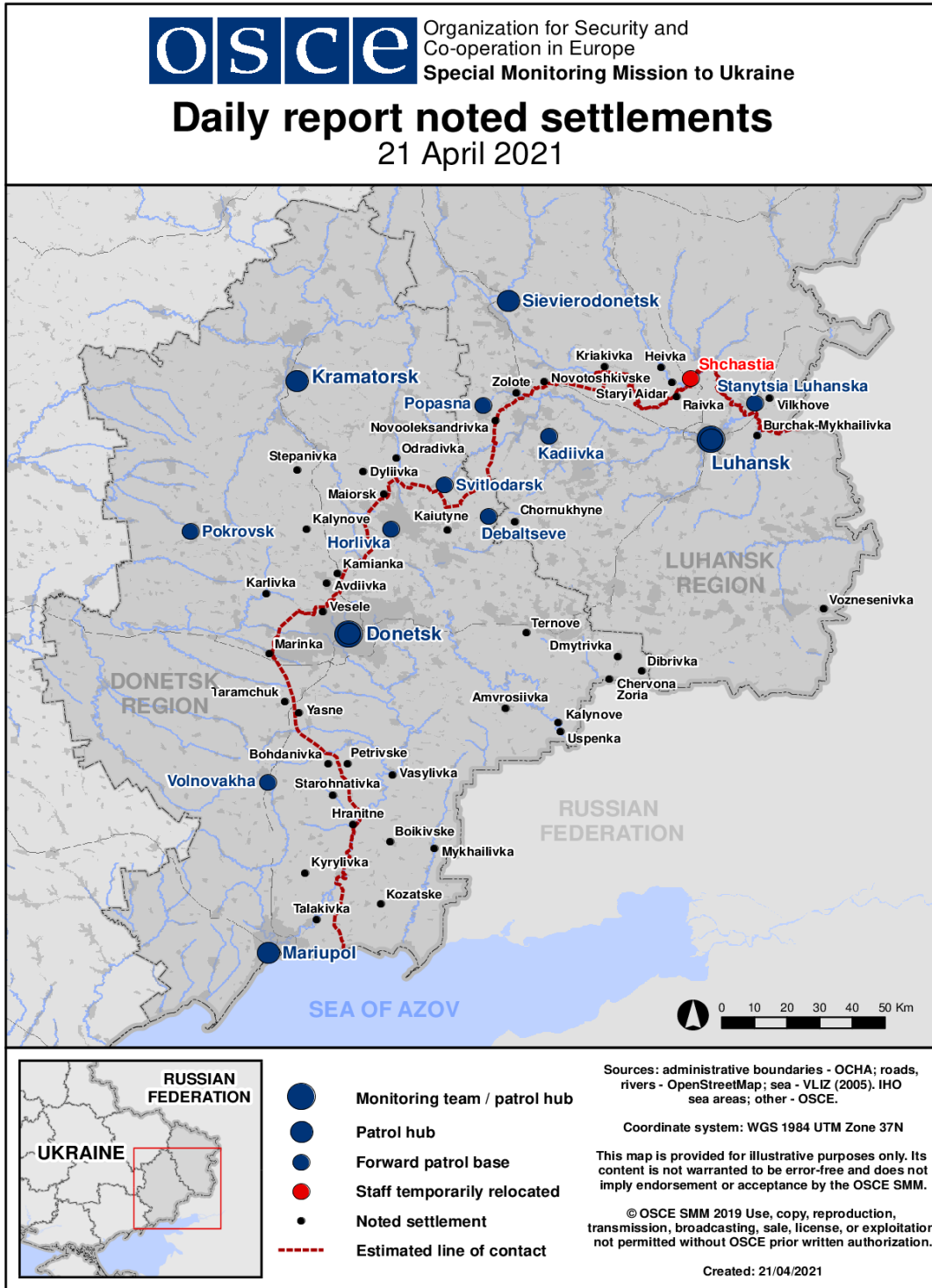
| | | | | |
|--|----|--|--|----------------|
| | 1 | Probable armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk) | UAV |
| | 3 | Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined) | Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk) | |
| | 1 | Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant) | Near Kriakivka (38km north-west of Luhansk) | |
| Non-government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 18/4/2021 | 17 | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1) | In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which the deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014 | Long-range UAV |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (MT-LB) | In a residential area of Vasylivka (47km south of Donetsk) | |

Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 April 2021⁹

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|--|----------------|----------|------------|--------------------|--|---------------|---------------------|
| SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 2-4km SE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Airburst | N/K | 19-Apr, 18:01 |
| | 2-4km SE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 19-Apr, 18:03 |
| | 1-3km SE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 19-Apr, 18:04 |
| SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk) | 1-3km SSW | Recorded | 6 | Explosion | Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 19-Apr, 21:27 |
| | 1-3km SSW | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Airburst (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 19-Apr, 21:27 |
| | 1-3km SSW | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | WNW to ESE (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 19-Apr, 21:28 |
| | 1-3km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 19-Apr, 21:28 |
| | 1-3km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka) | N/K | 19-Apr, 21:32 |
| SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk) | 2-4km E | Recorded | 12 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 00:46 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 11 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 00:47 |
| | 0.5-1km ESE | Recorded | 10 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 02:44 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 55 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:02 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 67 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:03 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:03 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 42 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:04 |
| | 2-4km E | Recorded | 8 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:05 |
| | 0.5-1km ESE | Recorded | 10 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:06 |
| | 0.5-1km ESE | Recorded | 5 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:21 |
| | 0.5-1km ESE | Recorded | 6 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:33 |
| 2-4km E | Recorded | 20 | Projectile | In vertical flight | N/K | 20-Apr, 03:34 | |
| SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 3-4km SW | Heard | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 20-Apr, 08:59 |
| | 1-2km SE | Heard | 2 | Shot | Inside 5km radius DFS | Small arms | 20-Apr, 14:38 |
| About 1.5km E of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 3-5km SSW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 20-Apr, 10:54 |
| Railway station in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 6km NW of Donetsk city centre) | 5-6km N | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 20-Apr, 10:40 |
| About 2km WNW of Pisky (government-controlled, 12km NW of Donetsk) | 8-12km SW | Heard | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 20-Apr, 13:20-13:25 |
| About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk) | 1-3km SW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (inside 5km radius of the DFS) | N/K | 20-Apr, 09:03 |
| About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk) | 2-3km SW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined (inside 5km radius DFS) | N/K | 20-Apr, 10:55 |
| About 2km SE of Zalizne (government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk) | 2-3km NE | Heard | 6 | Burst | | Small arms | 20-Apr, 11:58-12:01 |
| Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km S of Donetsk) | 6-8km ENE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 20-Apr, 12:27 |
| N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk) | 10-11km S | Heard | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 19-Apr, 23:28-23:30 |

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.

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).