

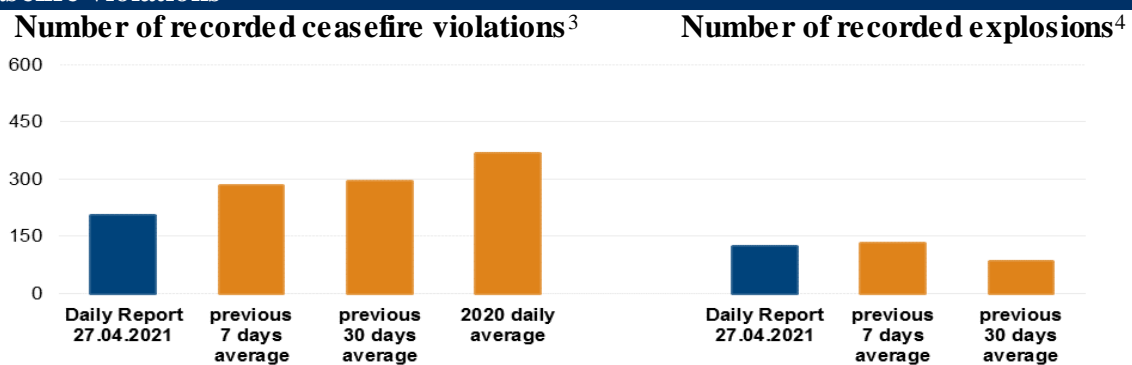
Daily Report 96/2021

27 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 205 ceasefire violations, including 123 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 125 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded four ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) near Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district, Syhnalne and Krasnohorivka, Donetsk region.
- Members of the armed formations again denied the Mission passage at a checkpoint near Olenivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM 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.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and four checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including again at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



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

³ Including explosions.

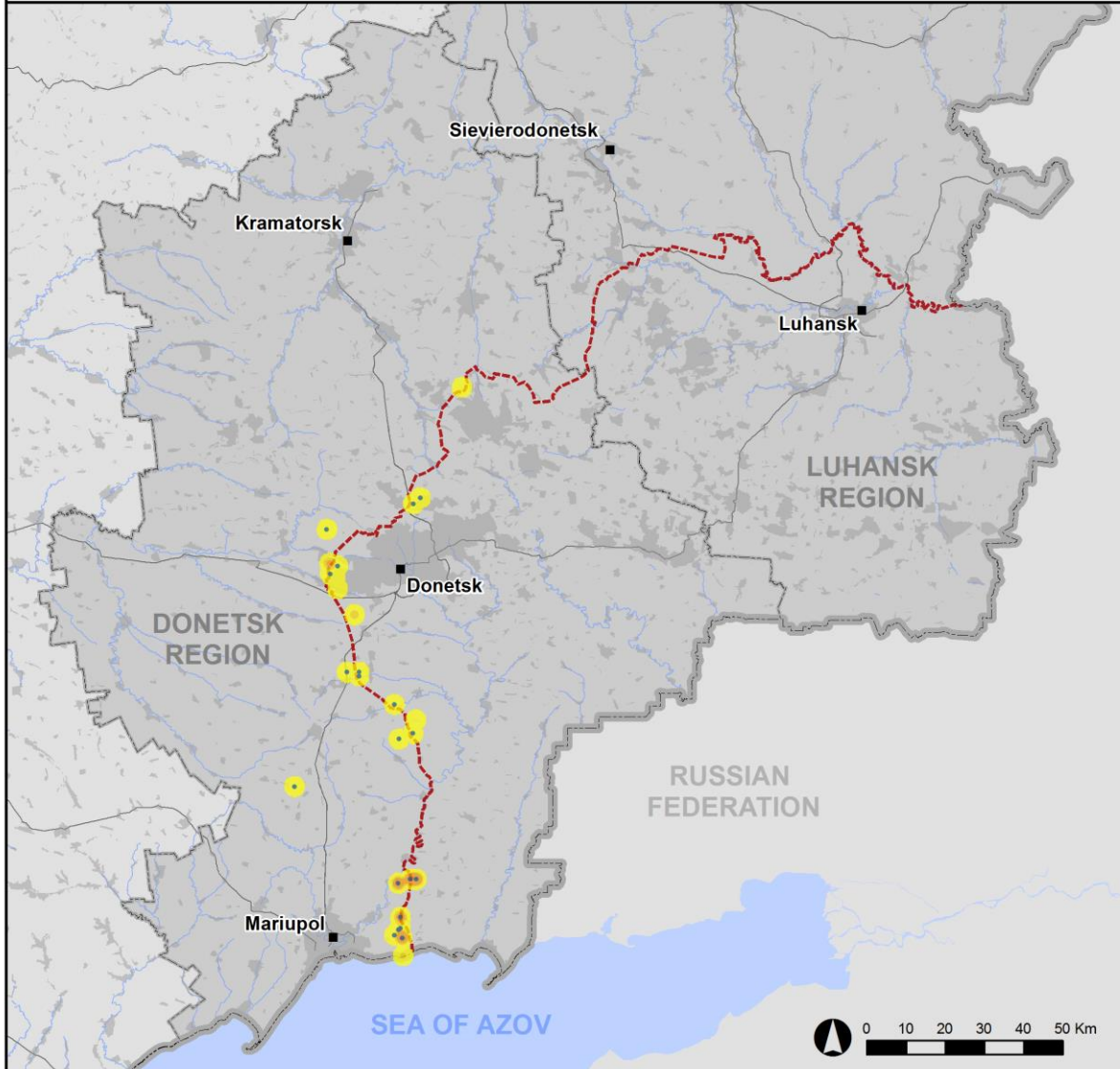
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

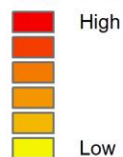


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 26 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: 27/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 205 ceasefire violations, including 123 explosions (one outgoing, 50 impacts and 72 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, occurred at easterly directions of: Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), where the SMM heard and saw 50 explosions, assessed as impacts, Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk) and Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 125 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded four 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 22,640 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 6,413 explosions, 2,824 projectiles in flight, 195 muzzle flashes, 79 illumination flares and at least 12,129 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district, Krasnohorivka and Syhnalne, Donetsk region

While positioned on the western edge of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard two bursts and one shot of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations, about 1.3km north-west of the SMM's location.

While positioned about 1km north-east of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard ten shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations, about 2.5km west-north-west of the SMM's location.

While positioned about 2.8km south of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 17 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 1.5km east-north-east of the SMM's location.

During all three flights, the mini-UAVs also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The SMM landed each UAV and left the respective areas.*

Such incidents, of which there has been an increasing number over recent weeks, put at risk both Mission members and SMM assets, and restrict the Mission's monitoring capabilities. For example, see SMM Daily Reports of [20 April 2021](#), [23 April 2021](#) and [24 April 2021](#).

Members of the armed formations again denied the SMM passage at a checkpoint near Olenivka, Donetsk region

At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations asked the SMM to open the doors and trunks of the SMM vehicles for a visual inspection and, subsequently, to fill out a "declaration of goods" indicating everything in the SMM vehicles and its trailer, both of which the Mission refused to do. Despite efforts to facilitate the patrol's crossing towards

government-controlled areas undertaken by the SMM during the next hours, the vehicles were not allowed to pass and were thus unable to accomplish a planned exchange of trailers with another patrol coming from government-controlled areas. After about three hours, the Mission left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city. (See below and [SMM Spot Report 12/2021](#).)*

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 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).

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 two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

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.

While positioned at two locations close to the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard three undetermined explosions and two shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed one surface-to-air missile system and 16 self-propelled howitzers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including at a railway station and a training area. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission saw two infantry fighting vehicles, on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, both near residential houses. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Marinka, Olenivka and Verkhnohyrokiyske

On 23 April, on the north-eastern edge of Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 11 anti-tank mines laid across a road leading east towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city, all located 30-50m from the nearest residential houses. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 5](#)

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

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

[May 2020](#).) About 450m south-east of these mines, the same UAV again spotted about three anti-tank mines on a local road. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 17 April 2021](#).) All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same day, at two locations in a field south of an access road to road H-20, about 2.3km and 3km south-south-west of Olenivka, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time in total 42 anti-tank mines (unable to assess if recently laid), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 25 April, in a field about 1km west-south-west of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 54 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 April 2021](#).)

On 26 April, at the checkpoint of the armed formations about 2.5km east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), the SMM observed two members of the armed formations replacing old mine hazard signs with new ones (red square, yellow lettering with “Stop, Mines” written on them in Cyrillic).

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 six undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

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).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM 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 were open, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the 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 (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 Coordination (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 April 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:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations again denied the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas to conduct an exchange of trailers. After about three hours, the SMM left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city. (See above and [SMM Spot Report 12/2021](#).)

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:^{7,8}

- On 22 April, medical staff at Hospital No. 14 in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled) refused to provide the SMM with information about an alleged civilian casualty, citing “need to address those in control”.
- While following up on the same alleged case, staff at the Kalinina Hospital in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled) also refused to provide the Mission with information about the alleged civilian casualty, citing “need to submit a written application to the hospital”.
- On 26 April, while positioned on the western edge of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard two bursts and one shot of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. During the same flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- On the same day, while positioned about 2.8km south of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 17 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. During the same flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- On the same day, while positioned about 1km north-east of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard ten shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. During the same

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 UAVs' positions.

⁸ SMM long-range UAV flights are temporarily paused and will recommence after further assessment. See [SMM Daily Report 26 April](#) and [SMM Spot Report 11/2021](#).

flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)

- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three separate flights over areas near Nevelske (government-controlled, 18km north-west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five separate flights over areas near Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west 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 Olenivka.
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south 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 Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south 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 Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk).

Tables 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				
24/4/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (S-300)	Near Nikolske (97km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
26/4/2021	8	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 <i>Akatsiya</i> , 152mm)	At a railway station in Khibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	8		At a training area near Khibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
26/4/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-3)	Near a residential area of Prymorske (102km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
26/4/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-type)	In a residential area of Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

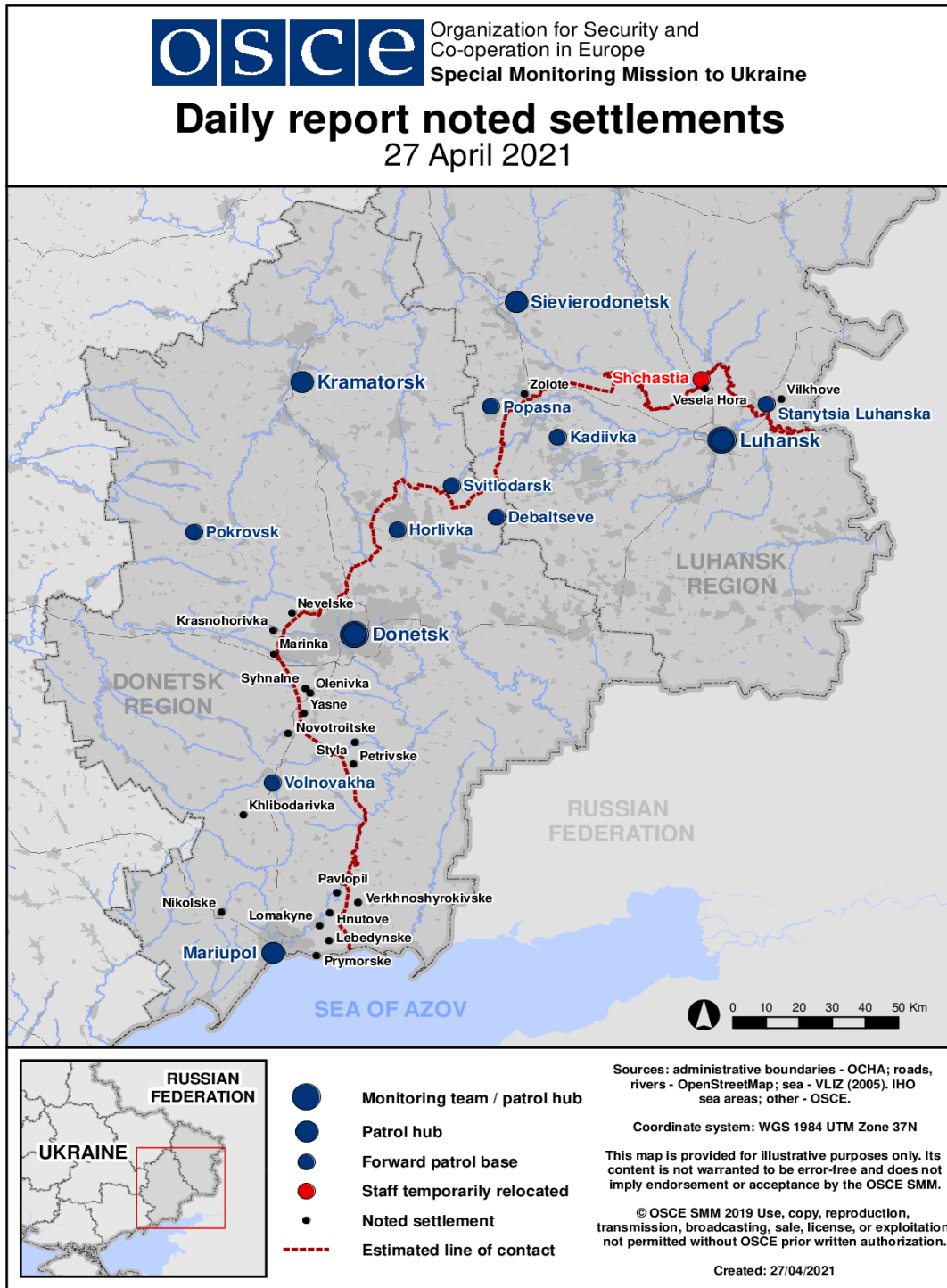
Table of ceasefire violations as of 26 April 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	200-500m ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	24-Apr, 21:44
Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 10:02
	4-6km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 10:10
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 10:51
About 2.8km S of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	26-Apr, 10:25
	1-2km ENE	Heard	17	Burst		Small arms	26-Apr, 11:02
	2-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:48
Nevelske (government-controlled, 18km NW of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 14:18
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 13:43
W part of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled)	1-2km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 11:02
	1.2km NW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	26-Apr, 11:04
	1.2km NW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	26-Apr, 11:04
About 1km NE of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3km NW	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	26-Apr, 12:12
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	5-7km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	26-Apr, 10:32
	1-2km S	Heard	1	Shot	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	Small arms	26-Apr, 12:32
	1-2km S	Heard	1	Shot	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	Small arms	26-Apr, 12:37
About 500m NE of Kamiianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:04
	5-6km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:05
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 11:15-11:18
	2-4km NNE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 11:15-11:18
	2-4km NNE	Heard	8	Shot		HMG	26-Apr, 11:22
About 1.6km SE of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	4-6km ENE	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:52-13:04
	4-6km ENE	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 12:52-13:04
About 2.6km SSE of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 13:32
Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	1-2km E	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	26-Apr, 10:23
	1-2km E	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	26-Apr, 10:34
	1-2km E	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	26-Apr, 10:59
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:31
	2-4km E	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:43-12:47
	2-4km E	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 12:43-12:47

¹⁰ 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 position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	2-4km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:49-12:53
	2-4km E	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 12:53
	2-4km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 12:59
	2-4km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 13:00-13:02
	2-4km E	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 13:00-13:02
	2-4km NE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Apr, 13:04-13:05
Khlibodarivka (government-controlled, 65km SW of Donetsk)	2km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	26-Apr, 10:24
Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard and saw	21	Explosion	Impact	N/K	26-Apr, 11:00-11:06
	3-4km E	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 11:00-11:06
	3-4km E	Heard and saw	3	Explosion	Impact	N/K	26-Apr, 11:12
	4-6km E	Heard and saw	17	Explosion	Impact	N/K	26-Apr, 11:15-11:20
	4-6km E	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-Apr, 11:15-11:20
	4-6km E	Heard and saw	9	Explosion	Impact	N/K	26-Apr, 11:21
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	26-Apr, 10:32
	5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	26-Apr, 10:55

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).