

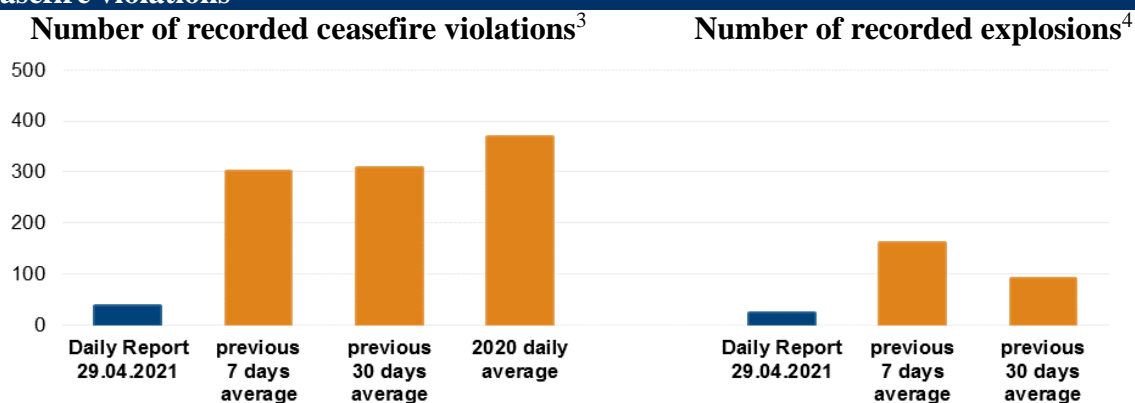
Daily Report 98/2021

29 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 15 ceasefire violations, all explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 217 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations, including eight explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 148 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM observed anti-tank mines, most seen for the first time and assessed as not recently laid, in non-government-controlled Yasne and government-controlled Nevelske and Avdiivka, all in Donetsk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs, maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM 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 Mission visited two border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk region and monitored areas close to the border in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in government-controlled Taramchuk in Donetsk region and at a railway station in non-government-controlled Voznesenivka in Luhansk region. Its mini- and mid-range unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 28 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.

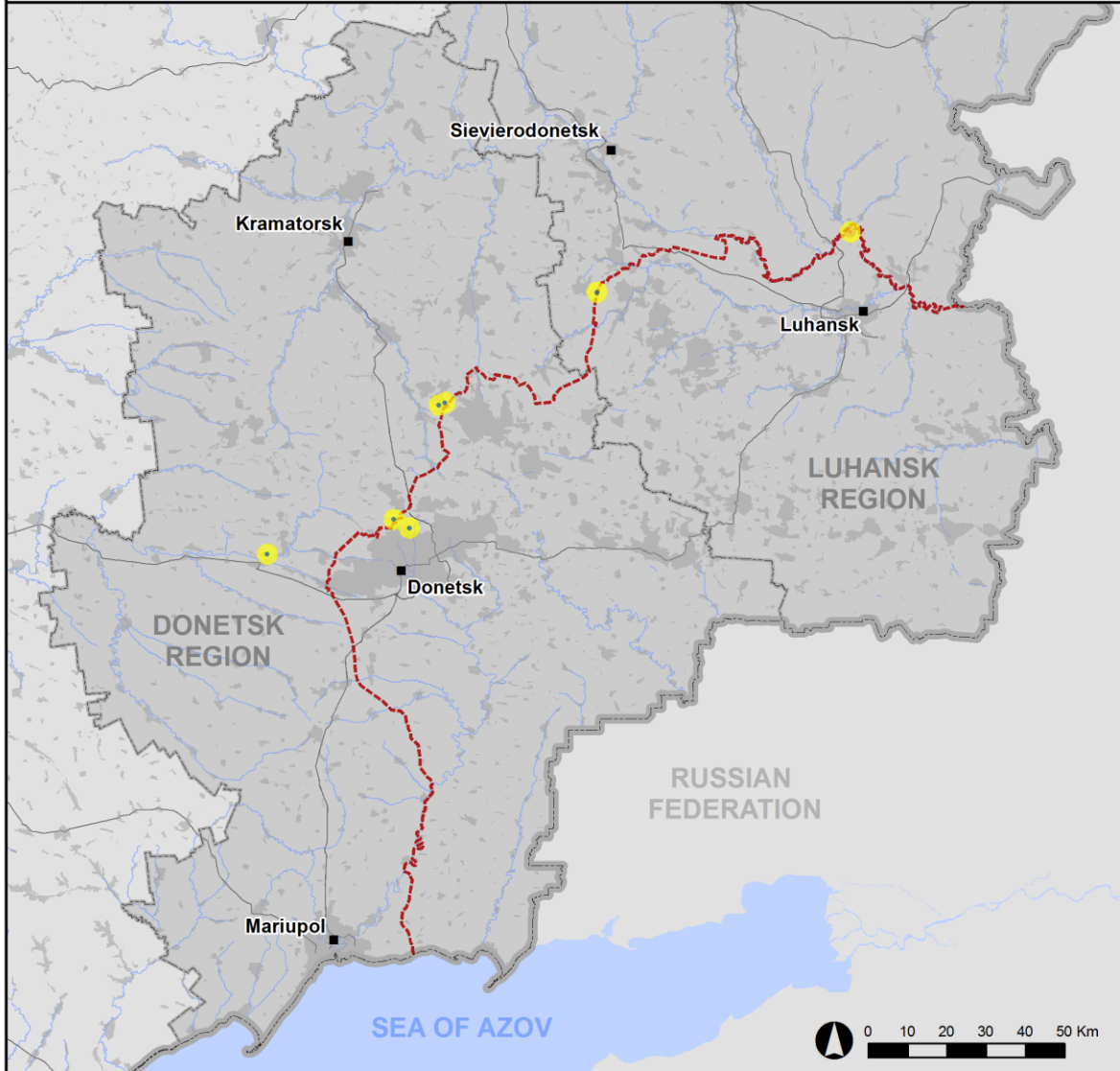
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

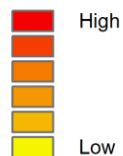


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 28 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: 29/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 15 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, including six at northerly directions of Kurakhove (government-controlled, 40km west of Donetsk) that were assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone, at south-easterly directions of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk), and at north-westerly and south-easterly directions of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 217 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, at south-easterly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and in areas north of Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 148 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 23,042 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 7,562 explosions, 2,830 projectiles in flight, 195 muzzle flashes, 79 illumination flares and at least 12,376 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 a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it) 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), three of whom (carrying canisters with spraying devices) walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. They were accompanied by an ambulance with one driver and three people (two men and two women, mixed ages) all in protective medical gear. 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 three locations close to the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed a calm situation.

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.

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

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

The Mission saw six armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines, most seen for the first time, in non-government-controlled Yasne and government-controlled Nevelske and Avdiivka, all in Donetsk region

On 26 April, about 1km north-north-west of Yasne (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time 20 anti-tank mines (assessed as not recently laid). On the north-western outskirts of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district, an SMM mini-UAV spotted about 48 anti-tank mines (unable to assess if recently laid), next to 52 [previously observed](#) anti-tank mines, all assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 27 April, in fields about 1.5km south-west, 1.5km south-south-east, 2.5km, 3km and 4.5km east-south-east of Nevelske (government-controlled, 18km north-west of Donetsk), two SMM mini-UAVs spotted about 1,810 anti-tank mines (1,720 of which were spotted for the first time and were assessed as not recently laid), all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the areas, see [SMM Daily Report of 28 April 2021](#).)

On the same day, in fields about 800m west-south-west, 200m and 800m south, and 1km south-east of the south-western edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted about 1,000 anti-tank mines (of which 907 were spotted for the first time). All of these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and as not recently laid. (For previous observations in the areas, see [SMM Daily Report of 10 April 2018](#).)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk). The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable emergency repairs to water infrastructure near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), maintenance to the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne and 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 (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.

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

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 70 minutes, the Mission observed 19 cars (including 12 with “DPR” plates), eight covered cargo trucks (including four with “DPR” plates) and 13 pedestrians (seven women, five men, mixed ages and a five-year-old child) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 24 cars (including 16 with “DPR” plates), 12 covered cargo trucks (including seven with “DPR” plates), a bus (with “DPR” plates and about 50 passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 23 pedestrians (12 women and 11 men of mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 20 minutes, the Mission did not observe any civilian traffic.

The SMM monitored border areas near Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk) and Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

While positioned at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed an undetermined number of stationary cargo railway cars. Upon arrival, a visibly armed member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

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 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:

- Upon arrival at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint on the south-western edge of Taramchuk (government-controlled, 29km south-west of Donetsk) two Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers allowed the SMM passage towards the settlement only after 30 minutes. While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian cars passing through in both directions.

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}

- Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three separate flights respectively over areas near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three separate flights over areas near Yurivka (government-controlled, 35km north of Donetsk), Troitske (government-controlled, 30km north of Donetsk) and Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV and an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, in both cases assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk).

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](#).

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/4/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a compound in Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	
28/4/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

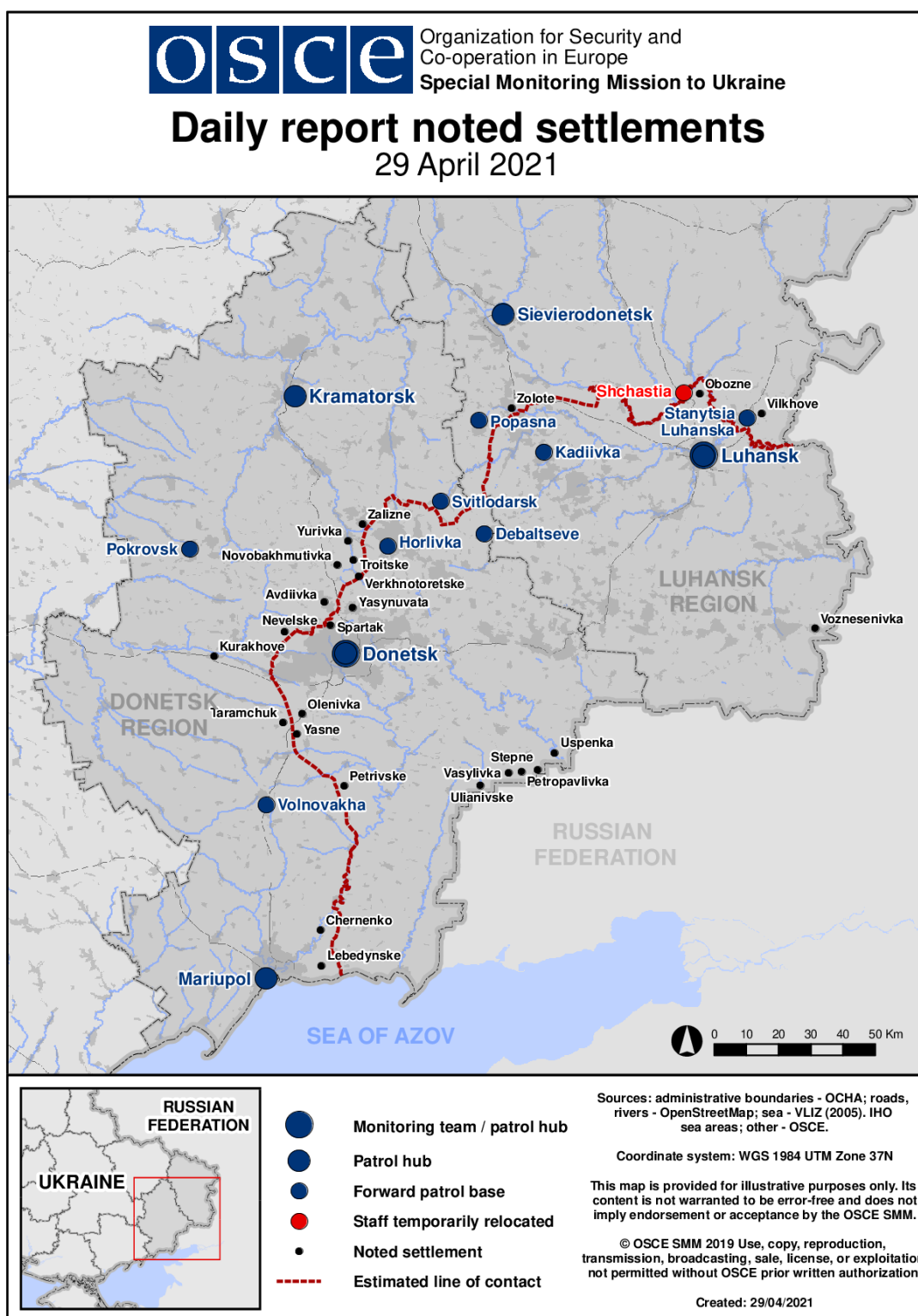
⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 28 April 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	6-7km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 13:36
	6-7km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 13:54
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 14:05
Kurakhove (government-controlled, 40km W of Donetsk)	2-3km NNE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (Assessed as a live-fire training exercise)	N/K	28-Apr, 13:28
About 1km ENE of Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 09:10
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 13:17
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Apr, 18:20-18:45
Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km N of Luhansk)	2-4km N	Heard	9	Shot	Undetermined	Small arms	28-Apr, 11:39-11:40
	2-4km N	Heard	5	Shot	Undetermined	Small arms	28-Apr, 11:45-11:49

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.

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).