

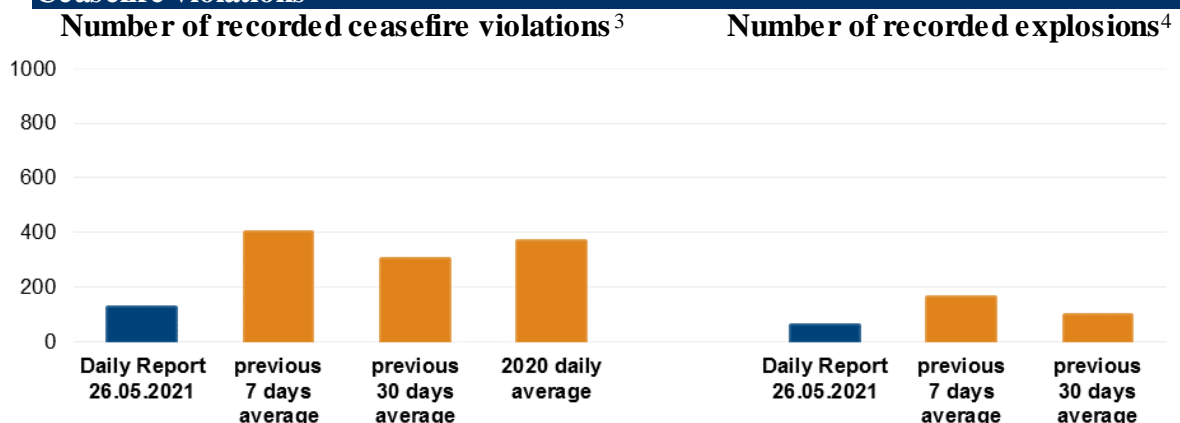
Daily Report 120/2021

26 May 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 76 ceasefire violations, including 22 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 214 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 37 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 51 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of a man injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in government-controlled Kreminna, Luhansk region.
- The Mission saw damage to two inhabited houses in government-controlled Hranitne and Pisky, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and recorded ceasefire violations in areas close to the latter two disengagement areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the 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.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in southern Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



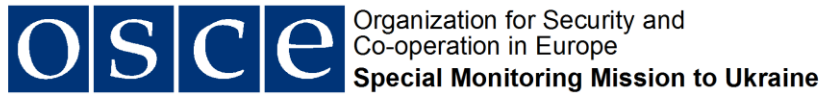
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 May 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

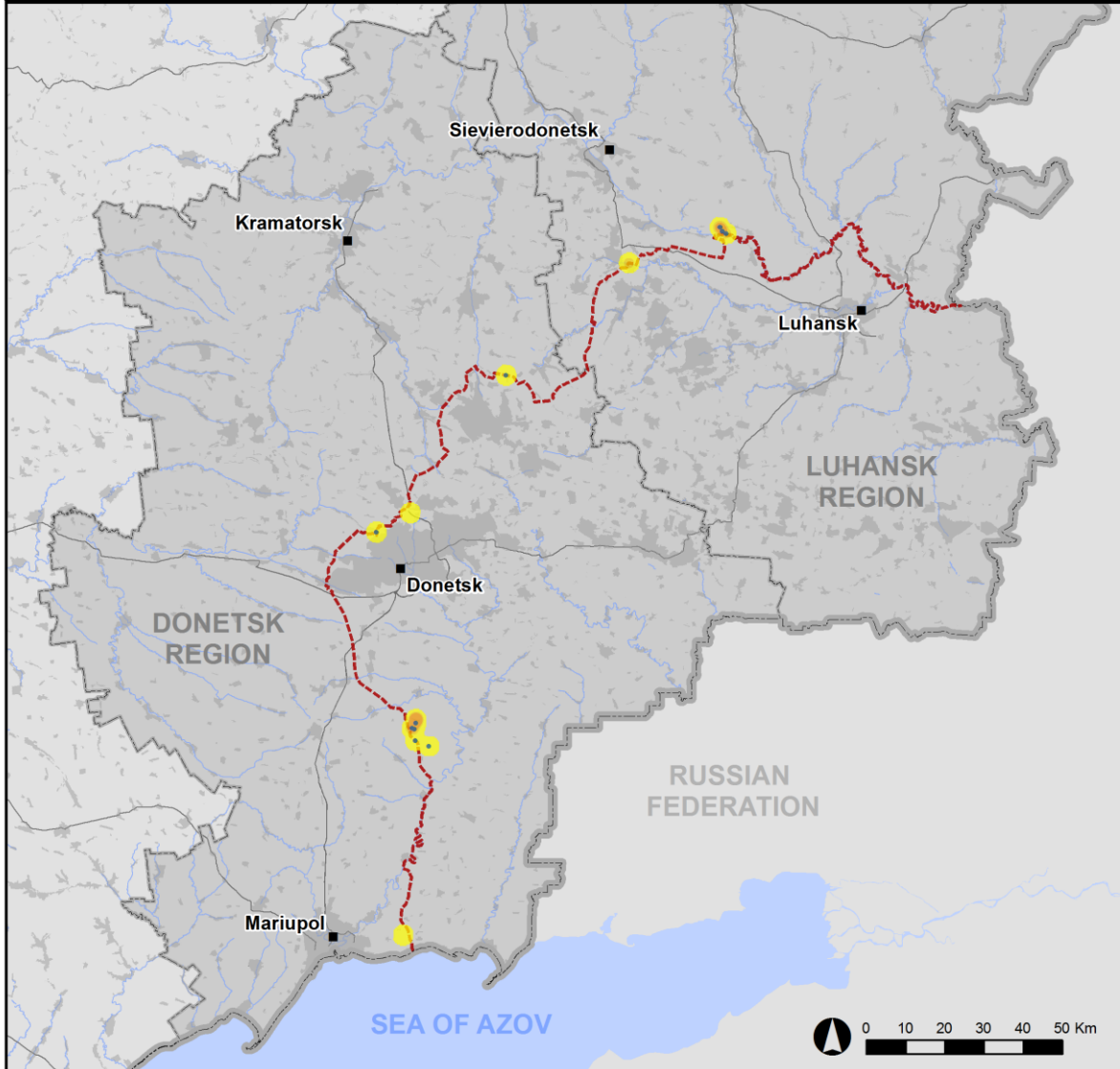
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

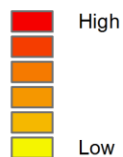
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 25 May 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 26/05/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 76 ceasefire violations, including 22 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at easterly and southerly directions of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 214 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were recorded inside the same disengagement area.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 37 undetermined explosions. The ceasefire violations occurred at south-westerly directions of Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km north-west of Luhansk) and north-easterly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 51 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were also recorded in areas close to the same disengagement area.

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 recorded at least 31,466 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 10,186 explosions, 5,091 projectiles in flight, 227 muzzle flashes, 107 illumination flares and at least 15,855 bursts and shots).

A man injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in Kreminna, Luhansk region

The Mission followed up on reports of a 21-year-old man injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in Kreminna (government-controlled, 97km north-west of Luhansk) on 15 April 2021.

On 24 May, in Sievierodonetsk (government-controlled, 74km north-west of Luhansk), a 21-year-old man told the SMM that he had tried to dismantle a metal object that he had found in the yard of his house in Kreminna on the evening of 15 April 2021. The object exploded. Another man (in his forties) introduced himself as the father-in-law of the abovementioned man, and showed the Mission a medical certificate which stated that the man had sustained burns to his eyes and multiple shrapnel injuries to his face, both lower limbs, right hand and three fingers of the left hand (which were subsequently amputated), consistent with the detonation of an explosive object on 15 April 2021.

Damage to two inhabited houses in government-controlled Hranitne and Pisky, Donetsk region

On 25 May, at 10 Ismailova Street in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw an impact crater (about 1m in diameter) with metal fragments inside it in a yard about 30m south-east of the south-east facing partially-collapsed wall of an inhabited single-storey house, and a hole in the glass pane on a window in the same wall (assessed as caused by shrapnel).

The SMM assessed all damage as fresh and caused by probable projectiles fired from an undetermined direction for the crater and from a south-easterly direction for the wall of the house.

A woman in her late seventies who introduced herself as the owner of the house told the Mission that, on 14 May, she had been at home when she heard a very loud explosion nearby, had gone outside, and heard another explosion.

On 24 May, at 7 Olimpiiska Street in Pisky (government-controlled, 11km north-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a hole (about 2m in diameter) as well as a broken rafter and broken and missing asbestos panels on the east-facing part on the roof of single-storey house. It also saw shrapnel marks on the north-facing concrete driveway and broken tree branches lying on the same driveway. The SMM assessed the damage as recent and caused by probable mortar rounds fired from an undetermined direction.

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).

An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas inside the disengagement area.*

On 24 May, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted at least 65 anti-tank mines in fields about 500m north of the area’s southern edge, west and east of road T-1316, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 1 May 2021](#).)

On the evening of 24 May, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded 12 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 3-5km east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 25 May, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area, about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. The SMM again saw the eight previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

During the day on 25 May, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, the Mission heard 17 undetermined explosions, 52 bursts and shots of small-arms-fire, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas inside the disengagement area.*

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

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 Mission saw three probable self-propelled howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM saw nine armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near a residential area, as well as three armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, in residential areas and in a compound. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank-mines near Marinka, Petrovskiy district of Donetsk city and Hnutove, as well as a mine hazard sign near Vasylivka in Donetsk region

On 23 May, near the north-eastern edge of Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted 13 anti-tank mines, seven laid across a road leading towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city and six (including five observed for the first time) about 100m further east in a field and about 30m north of the same road, all assessed as not recently laid and as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [5 May 2020](#) and [17 April 2021](#)).

About 1.2km east-south-east of these anti-tank mines, on the western outskirts of the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiy district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre), the same UAV again spotted three anti-tank-mines laid across the same road, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 17 April 2021](#)).

On 24 May, in a field about 3.4km east-north-east of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted 14 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 22 January 2020](#)).

On 25 May, about 70m south-west from the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and about 10m from the eastern edge of a road, the Mission observed for the first time a mine hazard sign (a red square with white skull and crossbones) tied to an electricity pole.

On the same day, about 2 km north of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw 20 members (mixed genders and ages) of an international organization conducting de-mining activities in fields along the road's eastern and western edges.

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

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 the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka.

The SMM monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the dismantling of a power line near Lopaskyne (government-controlled, 23km north-west 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 was open, with people queuing to travel towards non-government-controlled areas and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was open, with people queuing 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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point⁷ near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 70 minutes, the Mission observed 38 cars (including 26 with “DPR” plates), three buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 20 people (12 women, and eight men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine and 20 cars (including nine with “DPR” plates), ten covered cargo trucks (including seven with “DPR” plates), two buses (including one with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and six people (five women in their twenties and thirties and a man in his thirties) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), for about 60 minutes, the SMM observed eight cars (including five with “DPR” plates), one bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine and 14 cars (including three with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), one bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

Security situation in southern Kherson region

On 25 May, the Mission monitored areas near Hola Prystan (14km south-west of Kherson), as well as along the coast of the Black Sea near Zaliznyi Port (62km south-west of Kherson), Lazurne (62km south of Kherson) and Skadovsk (62km south-east of Kherson). It observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

⁷ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

***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, [SMM Daily Report of 22 May 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:⁸

- Two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Bobrove (government-controlled, 56km north-west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Muratove (government-controlled, 51km north-west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk).

⁸ 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.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/5/2021	3	Probable self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Berdianka (45km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
25/5/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novokalynove (29km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4)	Near a residential area of Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Peredilske (24km north-west of Luhansk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4)	Near Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
25/5/2021	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area of Donetsk city	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near a residential area of Stare (formerly Chervonyi Prapor, 58km west of Luhansk)	

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

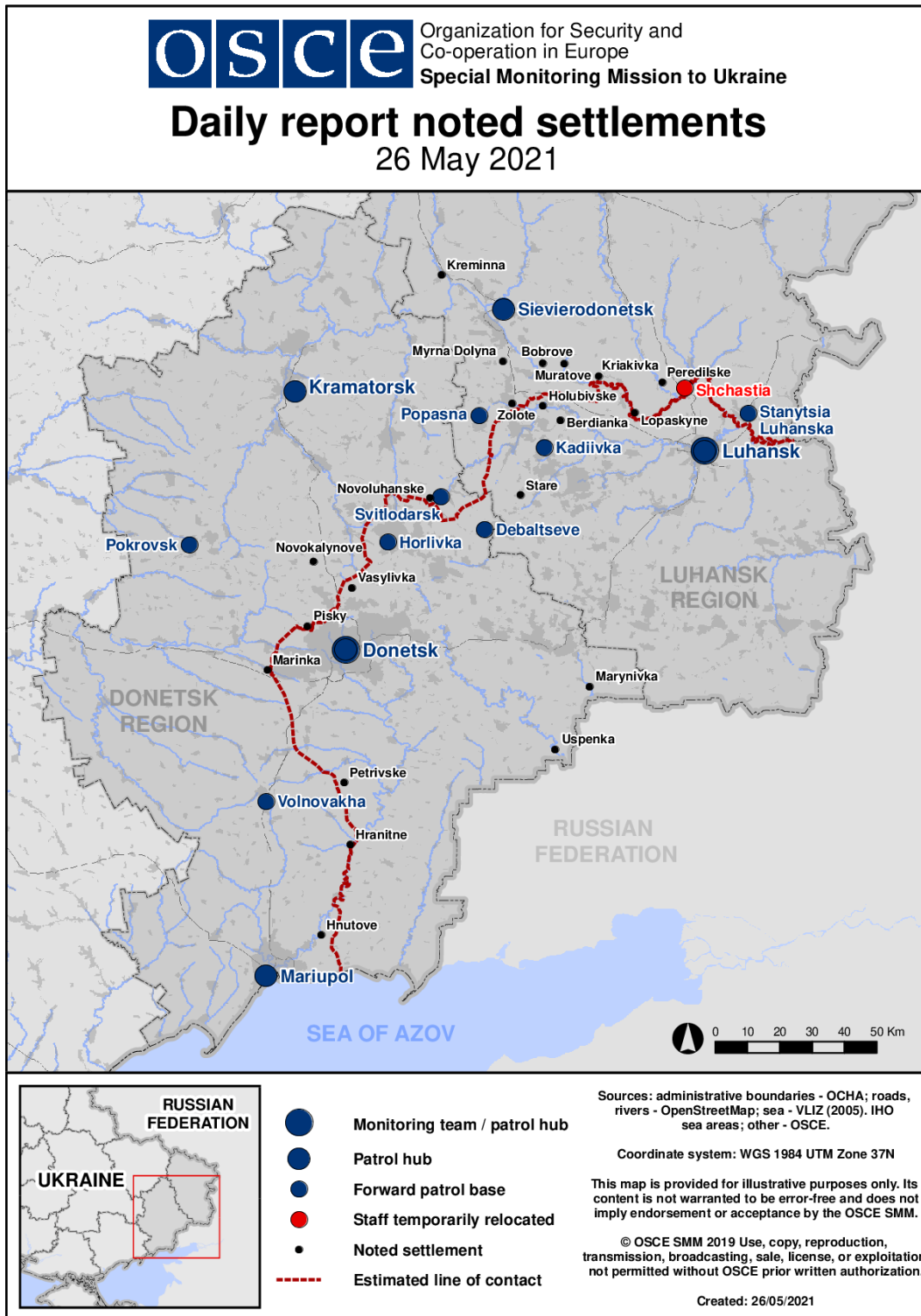
Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 May 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	2-4km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	24-May, 22:45
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	24-May, 21:20
About 3km WSW of Donetsk Central Railway Station (non-government-controlled, 6km NW of Donetsk)	2-3km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 11:21
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 12:05
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	8-10km SSE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 11:40
	6-8km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 11:54
	1-2km S	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-May, 12:43
	1-2km S	Heard	35	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-May, 13:11
	2-3km S	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 13:13
About 400m WNW of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 11:52-12:06
About 1km WNW of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	12	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-May, 13:10-13:15
	2-3km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 13:10-13:15
	2-3km S	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	25-May, 13:10-13:15
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:39
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:40
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:42
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:43
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:45
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:48
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:49
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:50
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:51
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:54
2-4km WSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:55	
2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:56	

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 WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 22:59
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:00
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:03
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:08
	2-4km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:48
	2-4km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:50
	2-4km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:52
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:56
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:57
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:58
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-May, 23:59
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:00
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:01
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:03
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:05
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:09
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:10
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 00:12
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-5km E	Recorded	12	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	24-May, 23:17

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).