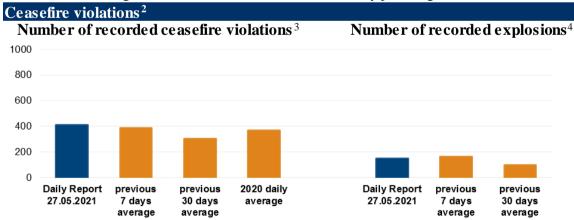
Daily Report 121/2021

27 May 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 63 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 76 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 347 ceasefire violations, including 134 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 49 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of two men injured due to the detonation of an explosive object near non-government-controlled Mykolaivka, Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near Novotroitske, 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 SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entryexit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference and its long-range UAV flight was cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming.*



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 26 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 camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 63 ceasefire violations, including 16 explosions (13 undetermined, one impact and two airbursts). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, occurred at easterly directions of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk) on the evening of 25 May and in an area south-east of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) during the day of 26 May (see below). In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded 76 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were recorded in areas close to the same disengagement area.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 347 ceasefire violations, including 134 undetermined explosions. Almost all ceasefire violations occurred at westerly and easterly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) on the evening of 25 May (see below). In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were 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 31,876 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 10,336 explosions, 5,178 projectiles in flight, 227 muzzle flashes, 107 illumination flares and at least 16,028 bursts and shots).

Two men injured due to the detonation of an explosive object near Mykolaivka, Luhansk region

The Mission followed up on reports of two men injured due to the detonation of an explosive object near Mykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 15km east of Luhansk) on 3 April 2021.

On 25 May, in Mykolaivka, the SMM saw a man (in his forties) with part of his left leg missing. He told the Mission that, on 3 April, he had intended to go fishing in the Siverskyi Donets River together with a friend (a man in his thirties) when he had stepped on an object that exploded and injured his left leg. On 24 April, the injured man's parents showed the Mission a medical certificate from a hospital in Luhansk according to which the man had sustained injuries to his left leg which had been amputated below the knee, and that were consistent with the detonation of an explosive object.

On 6 April in Mykolaivka, the SMM saw a man (in his thirties) with a cut on his right leg below the knee. He told the Mission that on 3 April, he had been walking with his friend, the abovementioned man, on the banks of the Siverskyi Donets River, when he had heard an explosion behind him, after which he had seen his friend lying on the ground with a severe injury to his left leg. He said he called an ambulance which took his friend and himself to a hospital in Luhansk. He confirmed that he had suffered minor injuries to his right leg.

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near Novotroitske, Donetsk region

While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard nine shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 2.3km south-east, assessed as aimed at the

UAV, which was flying about 2.3km south-east of the SMM's position, near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.

During the same flight and three previous flights, the mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See below.)*

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).

On the evening of 25 May, an SMM camera near the **disengagement area near Zolote** recorded three undetermined explosions, 66 projectiles in flight and four bursts of an undetermined weapon, all at an assessed range of 4-6km at easterly and south-easterly directions. On the same evening, while positioned in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard and saw 131 undetermined explosions and 112 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, and heard 23 bursts of small-arms fire, all at an assessed range of 5-7km east. During the day on 26 May, while positioned on the southern edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard eight shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1km at northerly directions. All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

Also on 26 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, accompanied by an ambulance with one man (in his thirties) and two women (age unknown), both in medical protective gear and carrying disinfection equipment. 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, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On the same day, inside the area, the same UAV again spotted about six anti-tank mines along its southern edge and near its south-eastern corner, and again saw 60 anti-tank mines outside the area, about 200m east of its eastern edge. (For previous observations in the area see SMM <a href="Daily Report of 22 April 2021.)

Also on the same day, outside the area, about 400m north of the area's north-eastern edge, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 75 anti-tank mines. (For previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report of 16 April 2019.)

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

Outside the area, about 280m north-west of its north-eastern corner and about 100m north of road C-051532, the same UAV spotted 20 anti-tank mines (ten of which seen for the first time, unable to assess if recently laid). About 300m west-north-west of the area's north-eastern corner, on the northern edge of the same road, the same UAV spotted two anti-tank mines. (For previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report of 28 April 2021.)

All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, near former positions of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner, the same UAV spotted about 20 craters for the first time, assessed as recent (not seen in imagery from 23 April 2021). The Mission was unable to assess the type of weapon that had caused these craters.

During the day on 26 May, while positioned in Petrivske, the Mission heard 15 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south, assessed as outside the disengagement 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw two multiple launch rocket systems near a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw twelve towed howitzers in a training area 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 four armoured personnel carriers in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near residential areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Pyshchevyk, Pavlopil, Verkhnoshyrokivske, Sosnivske and Petrivske, Donetsk region

On 24 May, in a field about 1.3km south-south-east of Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 800 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report of 8 May 2021.)

On the same day, in a field 1.5km south-south-west of Verkhnoshyrokivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), the same UAV saw about 82 anti-tank mines for the first time, assessed as not recently laid and belonging to the armed formations.

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

On the same day, in a field about 3km east-north-east of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 51 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Report of 21 December 2019.)

On the same day, in a field about 4km south-west of Sosnivske (non-government-controlled, 78km south of Donetsk), the same UAV saw about 22 anti-tank mines for the first time (unable to assess if recently laid), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On the same day, in two fields about 700m west-north-west and about 3km north-north-east of Verkhnoshyrokivske, the same UAV again spotted in total more than 80 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area see <u>SMM</u> Daily Report of 1 May 2021.)

On 25 May, in a field 2km north of Petrivske, an SMM mini-UAV spotted about seven antitank mines for the first time, assessed as not recently laid and belonging to the armed formations.

On 26 May, about 1km north of Sopyne (government-controlled, 101km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw members of an international organization conducting de-mining activities in a field along a local road's western edge.

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 a localised ceasefire to enable repairs to water infrastructure near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

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 saw workers with a mobile crane putting concrete blocks on a nearby roundabout. One of the workers told the Mission that these works were related to a reconstruction of the infrastructure near the EECP.

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. While at the latter checkpoint, the Mission saw six workers (men, age unknown) painting fences and roofed structures, located on the western side of the checkpoint, assessed as part of maintenance works. At the same checkpoint, the SMM observed two workers (men, age unknown) preparing material, assessed to be used for covering the damaged asphalt surface of the road around the checkpoint.

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, 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.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Lukove (non-government-controlled, 72km south of Donetsk), citing "an unstable situation in the area". The Mission saw civilian traffic passing through the checkpoint 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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint near Bessarabka (non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage towards Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk) after 40 minutes, citing "ongoing special operation in the area". While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through the checkpoint in both directions.

Other impediments:⁷

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference during four flights, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) (see above).

- Two SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk).

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.

- An SMM long-range UAV flight was cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, near its base in Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk).

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							
25/5/2021	2	Multiple love of me alvet greatens (true as yellot again ad)	Near a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of	Aerial				
25/5/2021	2	Multiple launch rocket system (types undetermined)	Luhansk)	imagery				

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of we apons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation			
Non-government-controlled are as							
25/5/2021	12	Towed howitzer/mortar (types undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 30 armoured combat vehicles. ⁸	Aerial imagery			

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation		
Government-controlled are as						
26/5/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB) Near Heorhiievka (27km south-west of Donetsk)				
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area of Novohnativka (40km south of Donetsk)	Patrol		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Voitove (33km north-west of Luhansk)	ratioi		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a compound near a residential area of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)			

 $^{^8}$ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned here are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

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

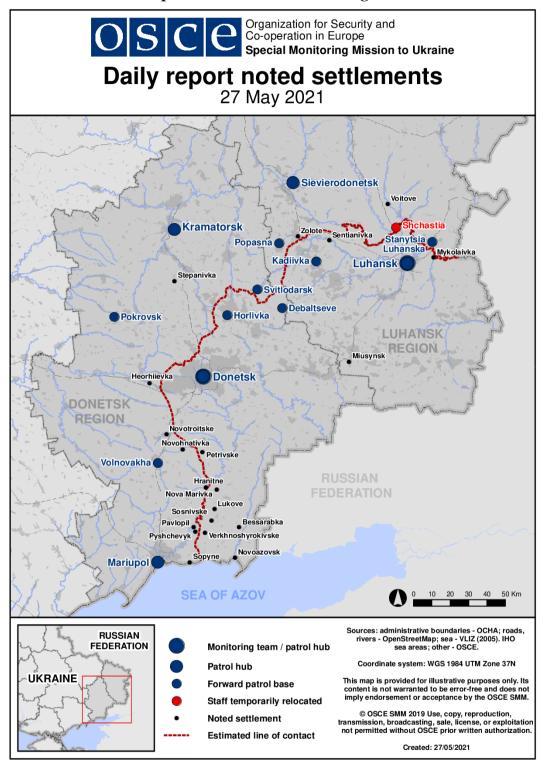
Table of ceasefire violations as of 26 May 2021^{10}

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
-	1-3km ENE	Recorded	12	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	25-May, 21:28
	2-4km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	25-May, 21:29
SMM camera in Hranitne	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 21:29
(government-controlled, 60km S of	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 21:30
Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	25-May, 21:30
	1-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	25-May, 21:43
	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 21:43
SMM camera at entry-exit	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Chacterininea	N/K	26-May, 02:06
checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	26-May, 02:06
,	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-May, 22:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-May, 22:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-May, 22:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-May, 22:04
SMM camera 1km SW of	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-May, 22:04
Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-May, 22:04
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 22:17
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 22:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-May, 22:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-May, 22:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-May, 22:35
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-	4km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 10:53
controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 11:18
Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	15	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	26-May, 11:59
About 7.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	1km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	26-May, 15:43
Novotroitske (government- controlled, 36km SW of Donetsk)	2.3km SE	Heard	9	Shot		Small arms	26-May, 12:22
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 20:54
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 20:55
	4-6km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 20:59
	4-6km ESE	Recorded	12	Projectile	SW to NE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:03
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W	4-6km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:07
of Luhansk)	4-6km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:28
	4-6km ENE	Recorded	9	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:28
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE (in vertical flight, assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:28
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:28

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
	4-6km SE	Recorded	2	Burst	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:28
	4-6km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:29
	4-6km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:29
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Burst	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:29
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:34
	4-6km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:36
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:38
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:40
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:42
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:42
	4-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:43
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Burst	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 21:45
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 22:00
	4-6km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 22:20
	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-May, 22:23
N. I. SP	5-7km E	Heard and saw	131	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	25-May, 20:40- 21:48
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Heard and saw	112	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	25-May, 20:40- 21:48
	5-7km E	Heard	23	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	25-May, 20:40- 21:48
S edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka	1km NNW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	N/K	26-May, 12:03- 12:04
(non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1km NE	Heard	6	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	N/K	26-May, 12:05- 12:15

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions 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).