

# Daily Report 126/2020

28 May 2020<sup>1</sup>

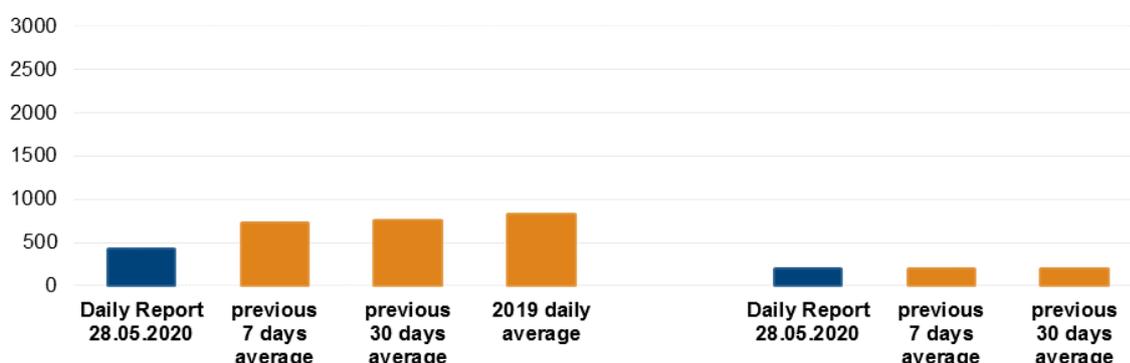
## Summary

- Compared with the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded fewer ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and more in Luhansk region.
- Members of the armed formations continued to deny the Mission passage at checkpoints along official crossing routes in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.\*
- The Mission continued monitoring all three disengagement areas; it observed persons inside the disengagement areas near Zolote and Petrivske during evening hours.
- The SMM saw weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued following up on measures taken amid the COVID-19 outbreak, including at entry-exit checkpoints and checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM facilitated vegetation clearance near Vilkhove, electrical repairs near Dovhe, and demining activities near Trokhizbenka, all in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 27 May 2020. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and heavy fog obscured the observations of almost all SMM cameras along the contact line.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

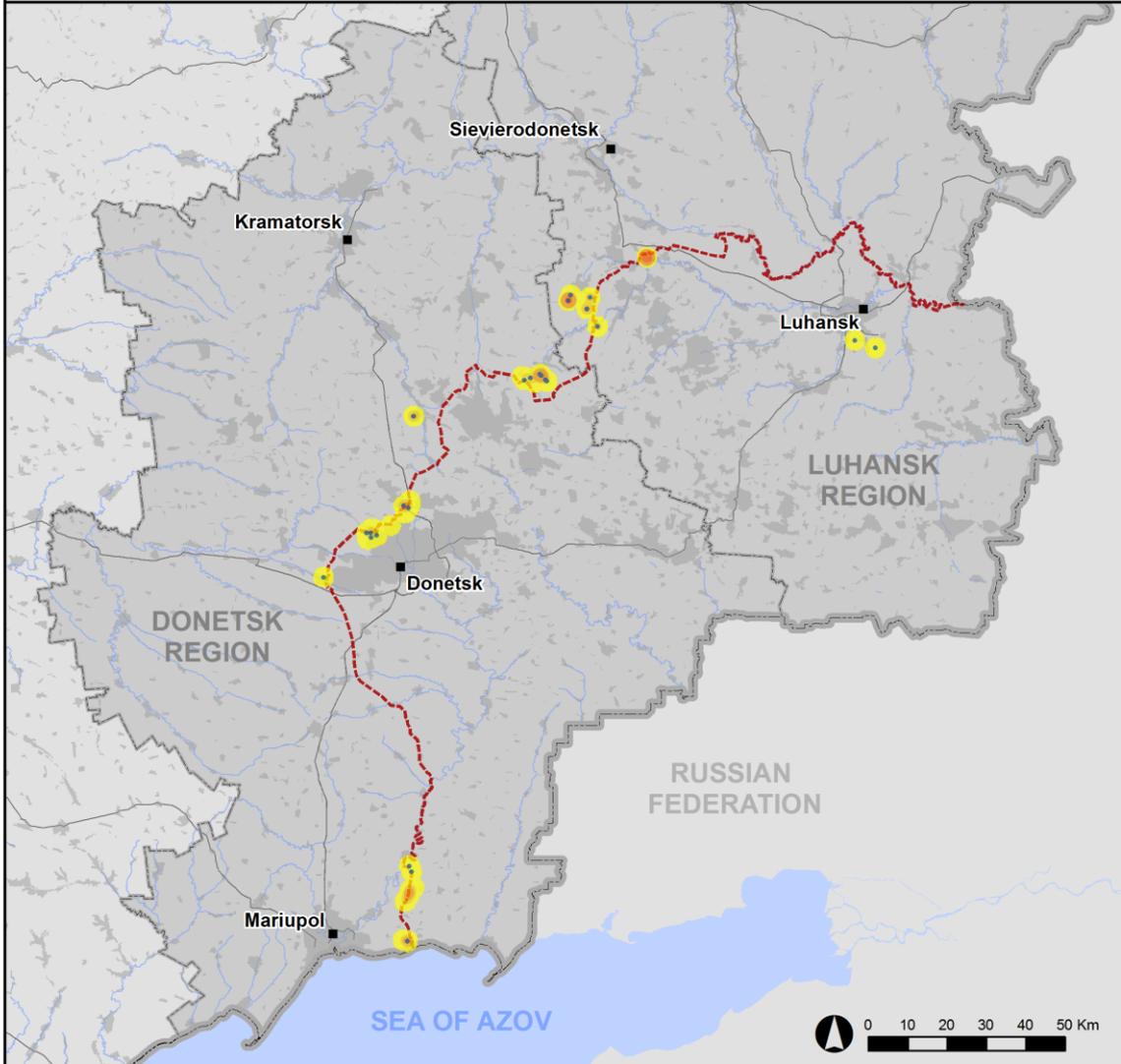
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

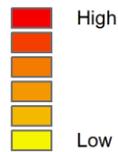


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 27 May 2020



#### 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: 28/05/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (about 70), compared with [the previous reporting period](#) (about 90 explosions). About half of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded at southerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) and northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the early morning hours of 27 May, the SMM camera at the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) recorded four projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 200-500m south-south-west.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (about 120), compared with [the previous reporting period](#) (13 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, were recorded in areas north of Berezhivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk) and south-west of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk).

### Members of the armed formations continued to deny the SMM passage at checkpoints along the contact line

Members of the armed formations continued to deny the SMM passage at checkpoints along official crossing routes. These restrictions constitute an impediment to the implementation of the Mission's mandate.<sup>5</sup>

In Donetsk region, at a checkpoint near Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, referring to quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19.\*

In Luhansk region, at a checkpoint south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, referring to quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19.\*

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>6</sup>

On 27 May, 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) between the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and their checkpoint south of it.

On the evening of 26 May, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 500m west of the area's eastern edge and about 100m south of its northern edge.

On 27 May, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) near the southern edge of the disengagement area. The SMM saw

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<sup>5</sup> The Mission began facing repeated denials when attempting to cross into non-government-controlled areas at checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region on 21 March and Luhansk region on 23 March. For more information, see SMM Daily and Spot Reports.

<sup>6</sup> Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

two of them walk inside the disengagement area up to about 350m north of the area's southern edge.

On 26 May, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence of 20m-long extensions to two previously observed trenches near the area's south-eastern corner.

On the same day, outside the disengagement area, aerial imagery revealed the presence of a 20m-long extension to a previously observed trench near the area's north-eastern corner, as well as another trench extension about 1.5km east of the area's south-eastern corner. All of the above trenches were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

Also outside the disengagement area, aerial imagery revealed the presence of extensions to two previously observed trenches about 1km and 3km south of the area's southern edge, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

None of the above extensions were seen in aerial imagery from 12 May 2020.

On the evening of 26 May, inside the disengagement area, an SMM long-range UAV spotted two persons inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner. The UAV also spotted four persons walking on a footpath between two former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1km north of the area's southern edge and about 2km east of its western edge, and a few persons were seen under trees about 200m further north, but the exact number could not be determined.

On 27 May, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area near Petrivske, 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines, the Mission saw 58 weapons – 48 in government-controlled areas and the remainder in non-government-controlled areas – all in Donetsk region. Most of the weapons were at railway stations (for further details, see the table below).

### **Indications of military and military-type presence inside the security zone<sup>7</sup>**

In the security zone, the SMM observed armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential area.

On 27 May, at a checkpoint about 4km east of Svitlodarsk, the SMM saw an electronic warfare system (*Bukovel-AD*).

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<sup>7</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

### **Anti-tank mines near Verkhnohyrokiivske and demining activities near Myrna Dolyna**

At a checkpoint west of Verkhnohyrokiivske, the SMM [again](#) saw three anti-tank mines laid across the road, blocking the SMM's passage through the checkpoint.\*

On road T-1316, about 2km east of Myrna Dolyna (government-controlled, 67km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM saw ten members of an international demining organization and seven vehicles reportedly preparing to conduct demining activities.

### **SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure and of demining**

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable vegetation clearance, inspection, and maintenance of railway tracks near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); electrical repairs near Dovhe (non-government-controlled, 22km north-west of Luhansk); and demining activities on the south-eastern outskirts of Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned near the station, the Mission heard three undetermined explosions as well as shots and bursts of small-arms fire assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

### **Measures taken at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints amid COVID-19 outbreak**

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and a checkpoint of the armed formations near Verkhnohyrokiivske remained closed.\*

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska and its corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge remained closed.\*

The Mission continued monitoring in Kherson, Dnipro, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, 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 and 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 Package of Measures 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 Co-ordination (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 27 May 2020](#)). 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 of access:

- At a checkpoint south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, referring to quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19.
- At a checkpoint west of Verkhnoшыrokiwske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas, referring to quarantine restrictions due to COVID-19.

*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.

Conditional access:

- At a checkpoint about 2km north-east of Stepanivka (non-government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), three members of the armed formations (one visibly armed) allowed the SMM to proceed towards Veselohorivka (non-government-controlled, 64km west of Luhansk) only while accompanied by an armed member of the armed formations.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons beyond the withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
26/05/2020	5	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	On the southern outskirts of Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	In Kalynove (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
27/05/2020	4	Surface-to-air missile system (three 9K33 <i>Osa</i> and one 9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	At the railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	2	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)	On the western outskirts of Khlibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	
	9	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	At the railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	
	10	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)		
16	Tank (T-64)			
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
25/05/2020	10	Tank (type undetermined)	At a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Aerial Imagery

### Other weapons<sup>8</sup>

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapons	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
26/05/2020	6	Probable self-propelled artillery/mortars (type undetermined)	At a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Aerial Imagery

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>9</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
26/05/2020	5	Armoured combat vehicle	In a residential area of Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
27/05/2020	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Veselyi Hai (42km west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
26/05/2020	-	New extensions to two trenches	Inside the disengagement area near Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Aerial Imagery

<sup>8</sup> The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

<sup>9</sup> 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 27 May 2020<sup>10</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	26-May, 21:30
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	26-May, 21:30
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 21:31
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	26-May, 23:05
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	4-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	27-May, 03:27
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 03:29
	4-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 03:44
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	0.5-1km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	26-May, 21:31
	200-500m SSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	27-May, 03:24
	200-500m SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	27-May, 03:25
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	5	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	26-May, 21:51
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-May, 22:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	26-May, 22:33
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	26-May, 22:49
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	26-May, 23:26
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	26-May, 23:27
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	27-May, 02:17
	3-5km E	Recorded	15	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	27-May, 02:22
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	26-May, 23:22
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 21:08

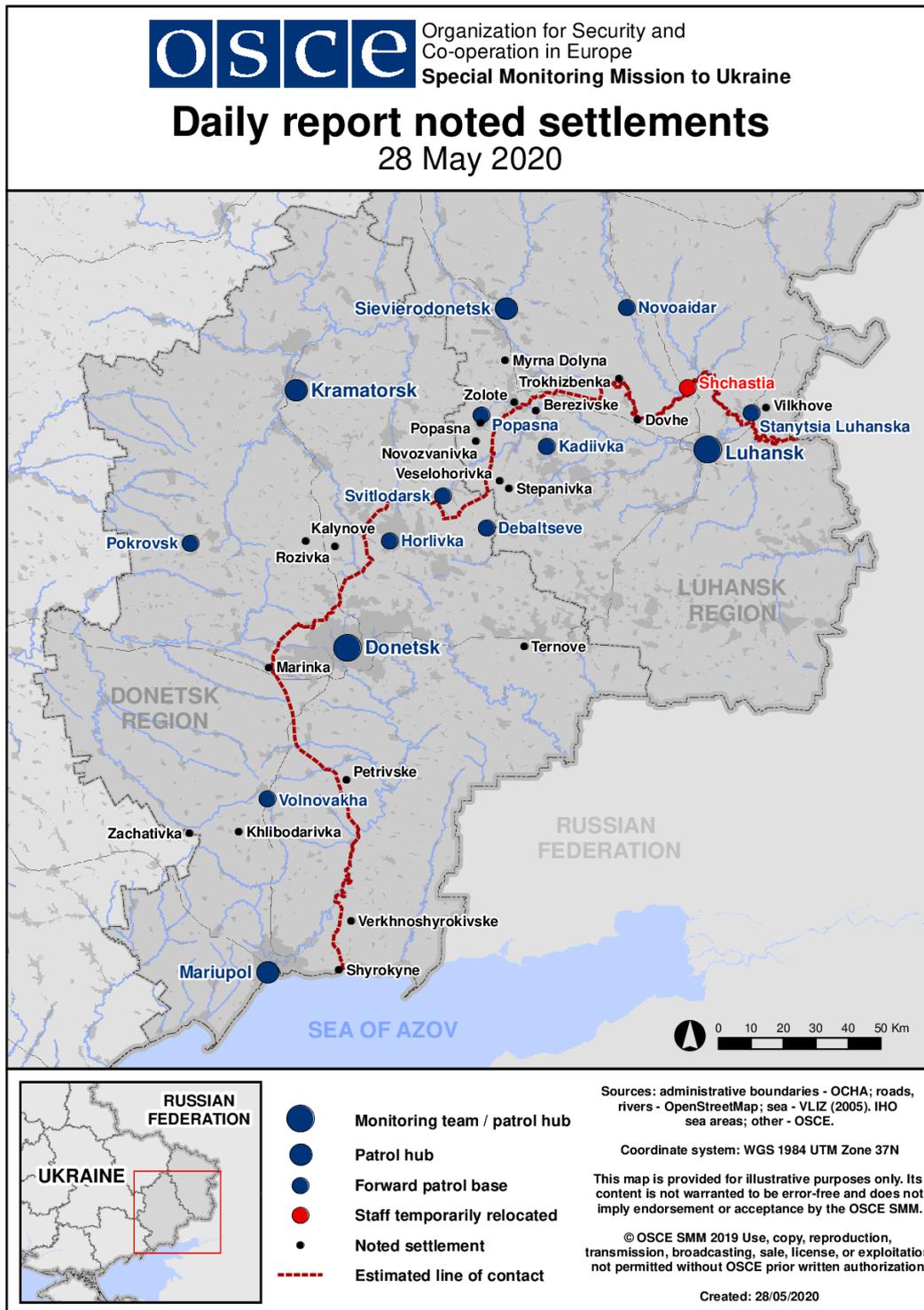
<sup>10</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based 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 camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km WSW	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	26-May, 21:02
	1.5-3km WNW	Recorded	3	Projectile	N to S	N/K	26-May, 22:25
	3-5km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 23:14
	3-5km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 00:02
	1-2km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 00:02
	2-4km W	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-May, 00:03
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-May, 00:03
	1-2km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	27-May, 00:03
	2-4km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 00:03
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 00:03
	2-4km W	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	27-May, 01:22
	2-4km W	Recorded	1	Burst	In vertical flight	N/K	27-May, 01:22
	2-4km WNW	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S	N/K	27-May, 01:40
	2-4km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	27-May, 01:41
	2-4km NE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	26-May, 22:29
	SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K
2-4km NNE		Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 22:54
2-4km NNE		Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 23:08
2-4km N		Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 23:11
2-4km NNE		Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 23:17
2-4km NNE		Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 23:21
2-4km NNE		Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 23:41
2-4km NNE		Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-May, 23:41
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km WSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	N to S	N/K	26-May, 21:26
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	26-May, 21:42
	2-4km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 21:42
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	26-May, 21:48
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	27-May, 01:42
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-	1-2km SE	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 09:22
	1-2km SE	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 09:39-09:43

controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 09:39-09:43
	1-2km SE	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 10:37
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 10:34-10:40
	5-7km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 10:42-10:46
	5-7km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 10:47-10:51
	5-7km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 10:55-11:01
	5-7km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:04
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-May, 21:33
	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-May, 22:54
	2-3km SSW	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:56-11:59
	2-3km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 12:03
	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 17:50-17:56
	2-3km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 17:57-18:03
	2km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 18:05
	3-5km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 18:06-18:10
	2km SE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 18:10-18:21
	2-3km SE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 18:22-18:28
	2-3km SE	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	27-May, 18:22-18:28
N edge of Kalynove Borshchuvate (non-government controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	10-12km SSW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:55-12:10
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:58-14:04
	5-7km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 14:31
	5-10km SSW	Heard	77	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 15:54-16:31
N edge of Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km W of Luhansk)	10-15km SW	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	Artillery (type N/K)	27-May, 11:55-12:10
Luhansk city centre (non-government-controlled)	4-10km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 12:47
	4-10km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 13:10-13:30
1.5km SW of Berezivske (non-government controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	3-5km NNE	Heard	53	Shot		Small arms	27-May, 13:34-13:49
	3-5km NNE	Heard	73	Burst		HMG	27-May, 13:34-13:49
3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government)	10-15km SW	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 14:22-14:37

controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)							
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## Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup>The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chemivtsi, 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).