

Daily Report 38/2021

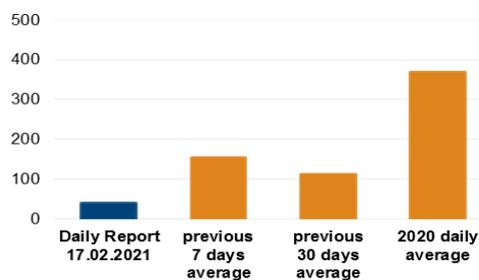
17 February 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The Mission recorded 29 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 26 ceasefire violations in the region.
- An explosion occurred close to an SMM patrol near the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and again saw containers inside and near the southern edge of the area near Zolote, as well as people inside the latter two areas.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS). It recorded six ceasefire violations close to the station, near the times when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the station or Yasynuvata.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at four checkpoints of the armed formations in non-government-controlled areas in southern Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 February 2021. All times are in Eastern European 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.

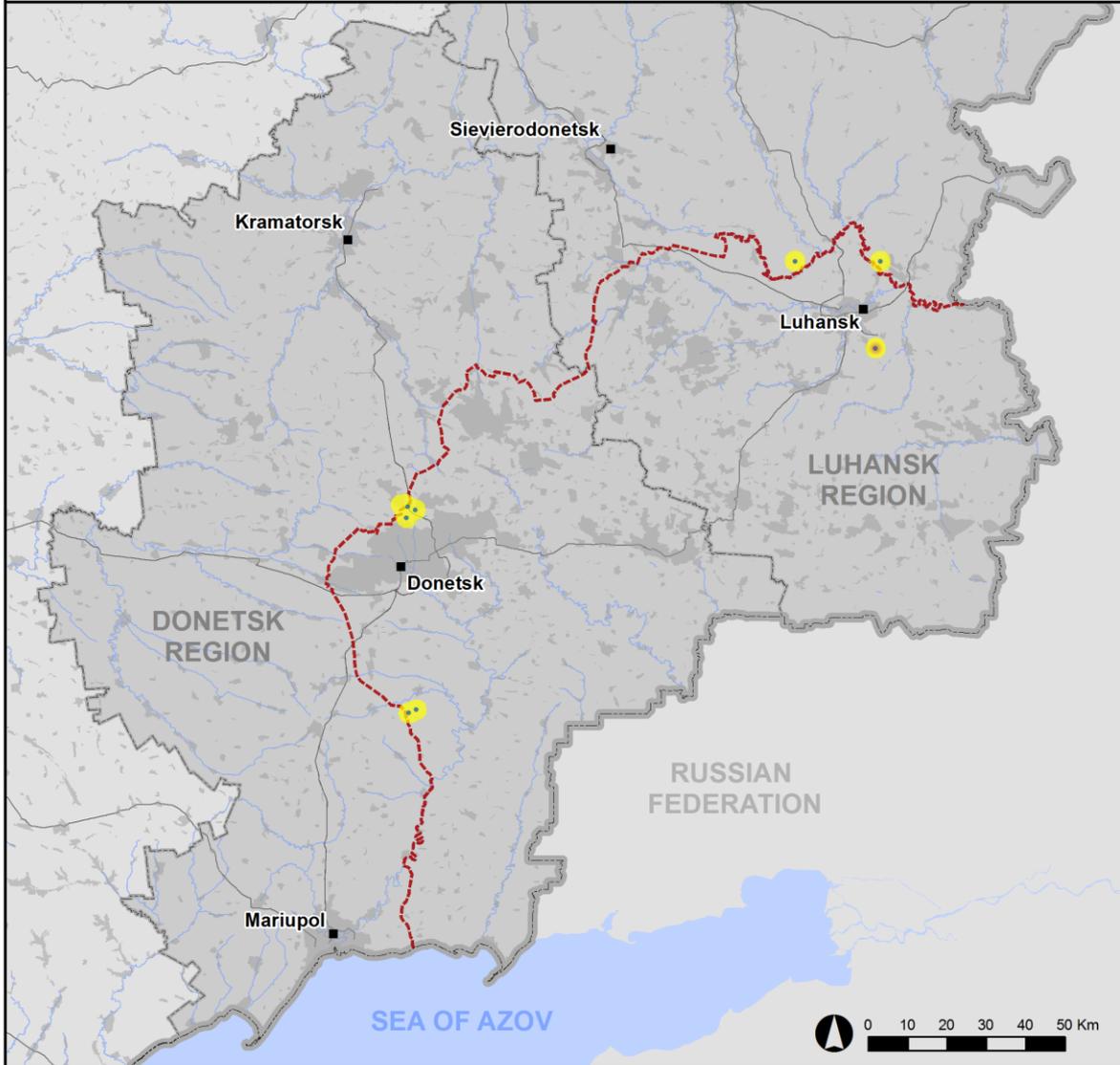
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

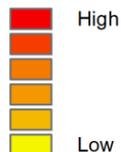
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 February 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: 17/02/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations, including eight explosions (seven of which undetermined and one impact of an undetermined weapon), all of which occurred at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) and at northerly directions of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 29 ceasefire violations, all explosions, 20 of which occurred in areas south-south-west of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 26 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 9,627 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 3,304 explosions, 1,119 projectiles in flight, 101 muzzle flashes, 60 illumination flares and at least 5,043 bursts and shots).

Explosion close to SMM patrol near the disengagement area near Petrivske

On 16 February, an SMM patrol comprising five members and two vehicles was positioned about 1.5km north-east of the disengagement area near Petrivske, on the road between Petrivske and Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk), to monitor the security situation near the area.

At 12:51, the patrol members, of whom two were outside and three inside the vehicles, saw black smoke and subsequently heard an explosion (and felt a shock wave) at an assessed range of 300–400m north of its position. The patrol was unable to assess the weapon used and the direction of fire. It immediately left the area and relocated to Styla.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 16 February, 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) on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On the morning of 15 February, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people inside a former position of the armed formations near the area’s eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 16 February, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of the area’s southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission saw 39 concrete blocks stacked (about one to two metres high) along the northern edge of the fenced perimeter, and saw for

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

the first time three metal gates installed in the fenced perimeter: one gate facing the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Myhailivka as well as two additional gates facing road T-1316 leading southwards towards Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk). It also saw a stationary tractor with a drill nearby (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 16 February](#)).

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five containers and another one about 350m north of the area's southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. About 10–30m north of the former container, the Mission again saw six concrete blocks placed in three rows across both lanes of the same road.

The SMM again saw another container, which was previously located about 30m north of the area's southern edge, on the area's southern edge.

The Mission also saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), both of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

During the day on 15 February, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations, about 400m north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On 16 February, while positioned at two locations near the area, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions (of which one was also seen, see above), both assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission saw a white car towing a trailer drive westwards from Petrivske and stop at the southern edge of road C-051532, about 100m west-north-west of the disengagement area's north-eastern corner. The SMM saw three men in military-style clothing unload unidentified objects from the trailer. Subsequently, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission saw the same car, which was about 200m west-north-west of its position, on the northern edge of the aforementioned road, and the three men load wood onto the trailer, drive towards the former location on the southern edge of the road and unload the wood. From there, the Mission saw two of the men drive away in the car south-eastwards towards Petrivske.

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka, the SMM saw for the first time a mine hazard sign (yellow rectangle with skull and crossbones and text in Ukrainian) on the northern edge of road C-050563 leading eastwards towards Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk).

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission 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, SMM UAVs spotted 23 howitzers (13 self-propelled and ten towed) in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed 11 tanks, six mortars and three surface-to-air missile systems in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The SMM saw 16 armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including eight in residential areas, as well as six armoured combat vehicles in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the maintenance and operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, it heard six ceasefire violations: one shot of small-arms fire and five undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. The shot of small-arms fire and four explosions were recorded near the times when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards the station, and one explosion was recorded while the bus was driving on the same road towards Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, at 9:10 and 11:10 a.m. at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska, the Mission saw 250 and 150 people, respectively, queuing to enter government-controlled areas and none queuing in the opposite direction. It observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and the EECP.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but did not observe any people passing through, and that the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

The Mission 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 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 9 February 2021](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following

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

the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb; these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage southwards towards Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), citing "demining activities in the area". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed cars passing through in both directions.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage to the settlement, citing "the SMM's security".
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south-westwards towards Mykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 70km south of Donetsk), citing "an unstable security situation in the area".
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), four visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage southwards towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), citing "demining activities in the area".

Delays:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage southwards towards Shevchenko only after about 40 minutes, citing "demining activities in the area". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed cars passing through in both directions.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations (two of whom visibly armed) again allowed the SMM passage towards the centre of the settlement only after about 30 minutes, citing "a need to enquire with their superiors". While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian traffic 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

- On 15 February, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Rozdolne (non-government-controlled 46km south-east of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

- On 16 February, medical staff at a hospital in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) refused to provide the SMM information about alleged injuries to a girl.
- On 16 February, while positioned close to the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw black smoke and heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 300–400m north of its position. The SMM left the area (see above).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	11	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where it also spotted a target and acquisition radar (51U6 <i>Kasta-2E1</i>) ⁸	Mini-UAV
	6	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		
	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	10	Tank (seven T-72B and three T-64)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	6	Mortar (five 2B11 <i>Sani</i> and one undetermined variant)		
	3	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	1	Tank (T-64)	In a compound near a residential area in Perevalsk (38km west of Luhansk)	

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	6	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area of Druzhba (45km north-east of Donetsk)	
	5	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near Dyliivka (49km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB-S, ambulance type)	In a residential area of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
16/2/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a residential area in Novoselivka Druha (69km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/2/2021	6	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

⁸ The target and acquisition radar is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

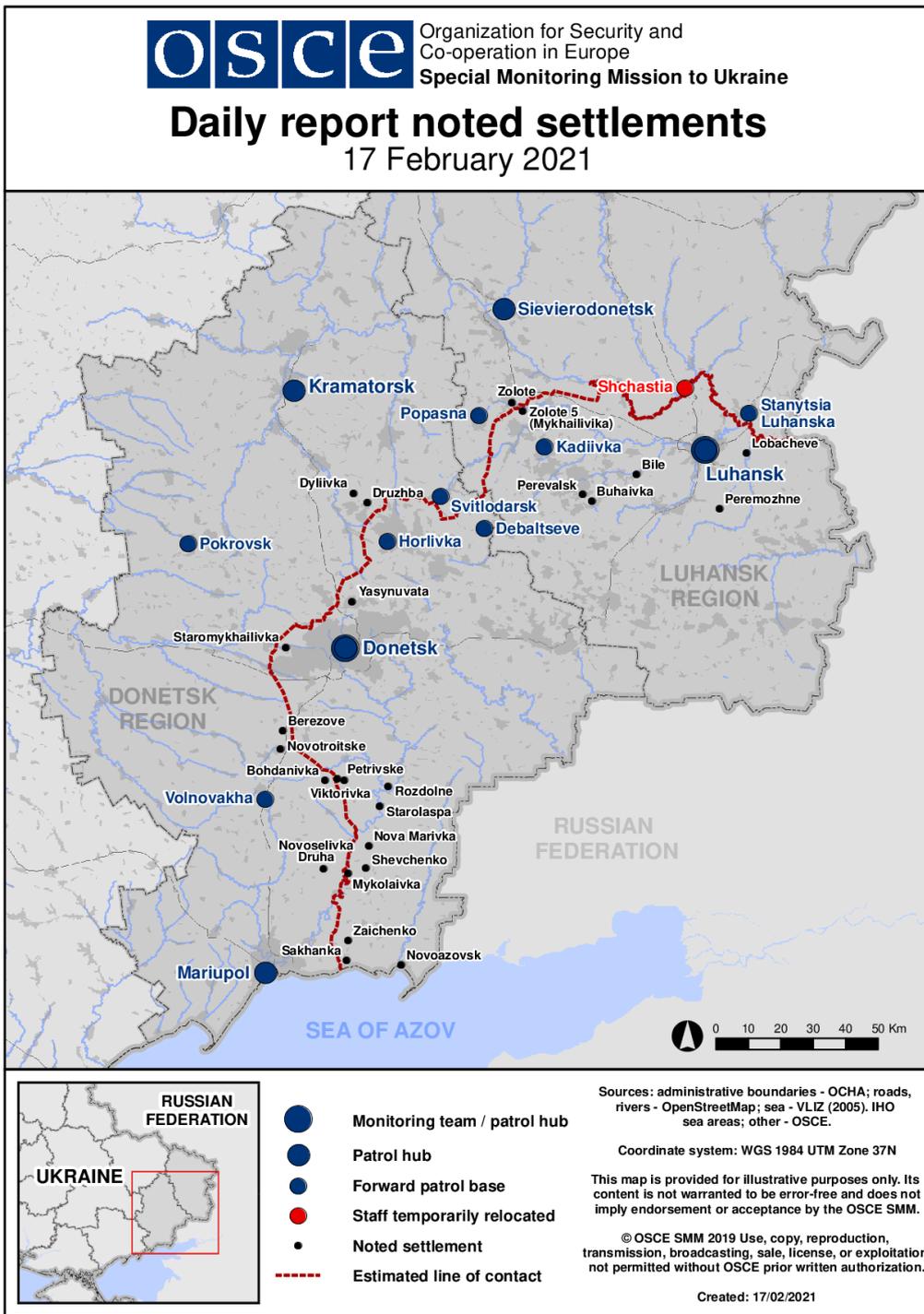
⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 February 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-3km SW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Feb, 00:22
	1-3km SW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	16-Feb, 00:24
	1-3km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	16-Feb, 00:24
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 13:29
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1km SSE	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	16-Feb, 09:20
	4-5km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 13:30
	4-5km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 13:41
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	300-400m N	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	16-Feb, 12:51
About 2km ENE of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	16-Feb, 12:44
N edge of Stanytsia Luhanska Bridge (government-controlled, 15km NE of Luhansk)	15-20km SSW	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 09:42-10:35
Staryi Aidar (government-controlled, 20km NW of Luhansk)	4-8km SW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 11:05-11:20
SE edge of Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km N of Luhansk)	12-15km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Feb, 11:07-11:08

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).