

# Daily Report 56/2021

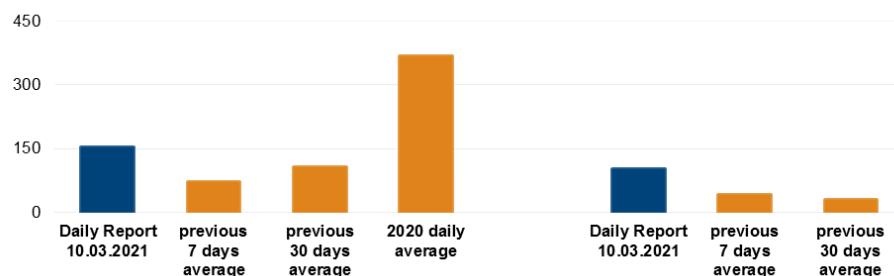
10 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 128 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period it recorded 105 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Troitske, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard 77 ceasefire violations, including 54 undetermined explosions, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM monitored an event on the occasion of International Women's Day in Kherson city.
- The Mission saw a gathering in central Kyiv related to events in the Crimean peninsula in March 2014.
- The SMM'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>



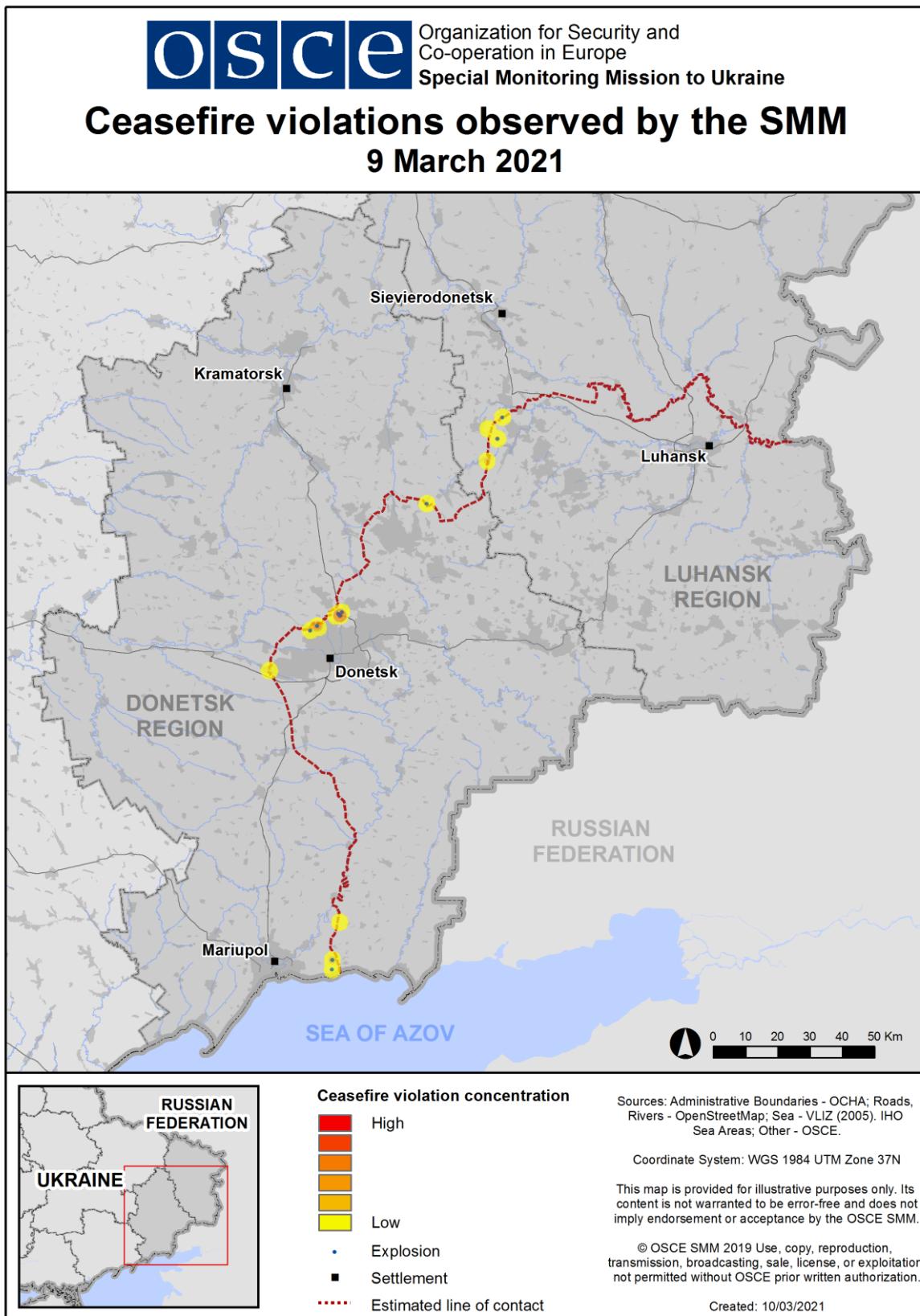
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 9 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<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 weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

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

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 128 ceasefire violations, including 92 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below), at westerly and northerly directions of Oktiabr mine in non-government-controlled Donetsk city, and in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 105 ceasefire violations, the majority of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 26 ceasefire violations, including ten undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas south of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) and north-east of government-controlled Troitske (69km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region, all undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north and east of the disengagement area near Zolote.

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 11,732 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,132 explosions, 1,450 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 5,971 bursts and shots).

#### **Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Troitske, Luhansk region**

On 9 March, while positioned on the north-eastern edge of Troitske, to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard ten shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1.5–2km east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 2km east of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.\*

#### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

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).

While positioned about 1km north-north-east of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2–4km north, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission 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.

Also near the same checkpoint, the SMM again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-

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

5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area's southern edge.

Inside the area, the SMM again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another about 350m north of the area's southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### 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, the SMM observed four towed howitzers and two self-propelled howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, it observed two probable anti-tank guns near a residential area in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

### Weapons storage sites

*At two weapons permanent storage sites in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region*

9 March

The SMM noted that one tank (T-72) was again missing at one of the sites.

*At a heavy weapons permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region*

9 March

The SMM saw that one self-propelled howitzer (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) was again missing.

### Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and on both sides of the contact line in Luhansk region, including near residential areas (for further information, see the table below).

### Mine hazard signs near the disengagement area near Zolote and Myrna Dolyna, Luhansk region

While positioned about 600m north of the northern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote, the SMM observed six de-miners of an international organization placing mine hazard signs (red squares with a white skull and “Stop. Mines” written in Ukrainian) on the western and eastern edges of road T-1316.

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

About 2km east of Myrna Dolyna (government-controlled, 67km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM observed seven de-miners (one woman and six men) of an international organization placing mine hazard signs (red squares with a white skull and “Stop. Mines” written in Ukrainian) on the western and eastern edges of road P-66 (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 4 March.](#))

### SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the station, the Mission recorded 81 ceasefire violations, including 58 undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station, of which 77 ceasefire violations (including 54 undetermined explosions) occurred near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from the station towards Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

It also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); repairs to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk); as well as maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk). While positioned near the latter settlement, the Mission recorded two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 1–2km south-south-east.

### 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 the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia 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.

### SMM monitored an event on the occasion of International Women’s Day in Kherson city

On 8 March, on Svobody Square in Kherson city, the Mission saw about 50 people (mostly women, mixed ages) gather and then walk holding signs and chanting slogans in support of gender equality. The Mission also observed about 40 law enforcement officers standing nearby. (For similar events in Odessa, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kramatorsk, see SMM Daily Reports of [6 March 2021](#) and [9 March 2021](#).)

### SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv

On 9 March, in Taras Shevchenko Park in Kyiv, the SMM saw about 90 people (mixed ages and gender) with Crimean Tatar flags and banners protesting events of March 2014 in the

Crimean peninsula. The Mission saw no law enforcement officers present. The gathering ended peacefully.

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

### **\*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 2 March 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:<sup>7</sup>

- On 9 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pervomaiske (government-controlled, 17km north-west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, while positioned on the north-eastern edge of Troitske (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard ten shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area (see above).

---

<sup>7</sup> 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 positions.

### Table of weapons

#### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
9/3/2021	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		

#### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
7/3/2021	2	Probable anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)	Near Yablunivka (49km north of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV

### Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
8/3/2021	4	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		
9/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near a residential area in Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
8/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-variant)	Near Zhovte (17km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
9/3/2021	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-2)	Near a residential area in Katerynivka (formerly Yuvileine, 8km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Kypuche (formerly Artemivsk, 46km west of Luhansk)	

<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

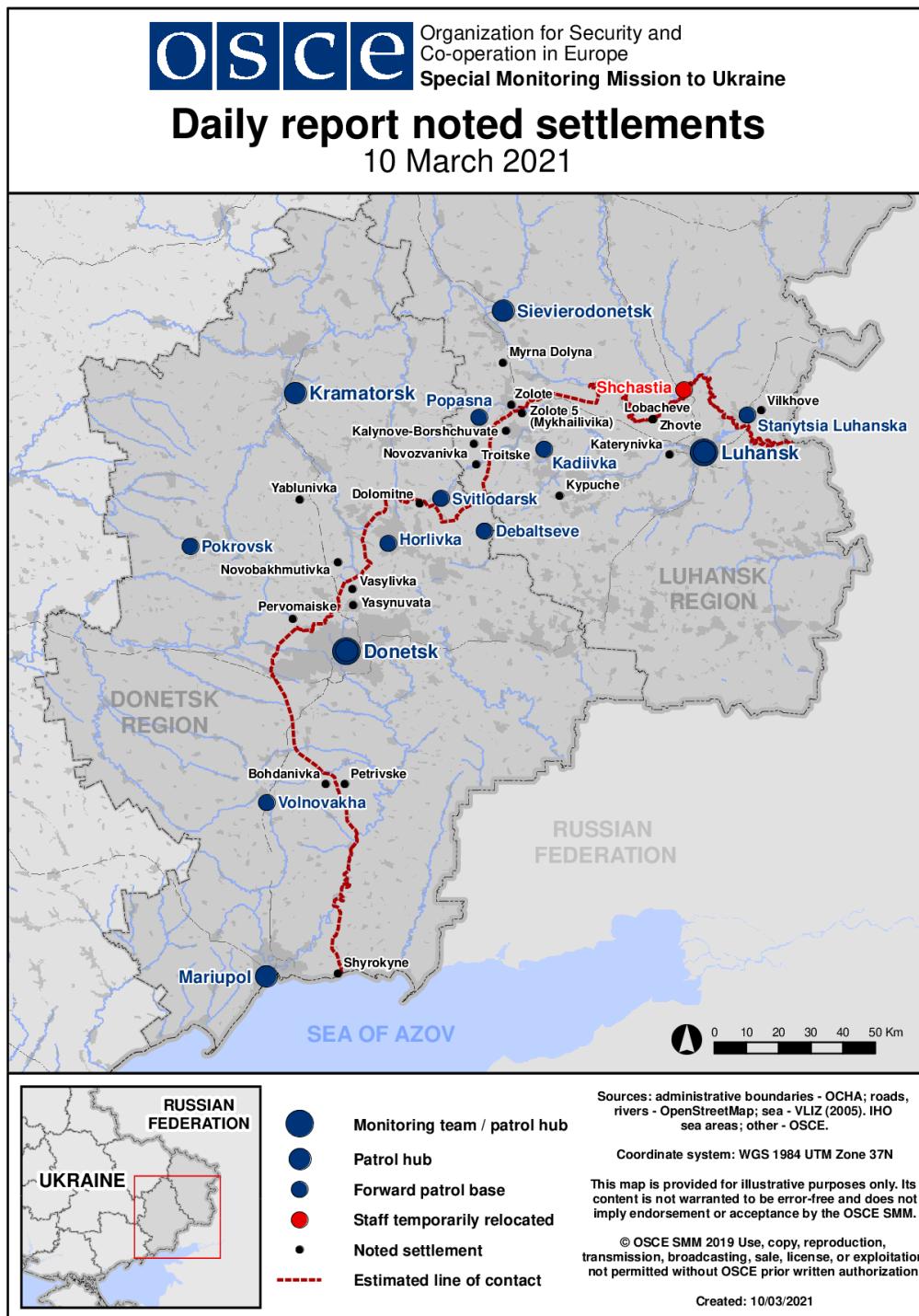
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 9 March 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	8-Mar, 18:31
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnurovye (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	8-Mar, 21:15
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	8-Mar, 21:30
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	9-Mar, 00:44
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 17:16
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 17:22
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	9-Mar, 18:57
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:22
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:23
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:24
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:26
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:27
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:28
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:29
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:30
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:31
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:32
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:34
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:45
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:46
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:53
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:54
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 16:55
	1-2km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 17:04
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	0.5-2km NE	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	9-Mar, 17:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 20:22
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	8-Mar, 20:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	8-Mar, 20:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 20:36
	1-3km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 20:37
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 20:50

<sup>9</sup> 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.

	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile		N/K	8-Mar, 20:51
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Mar, 20:56
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 01:29
About 1km NW of the Railway Station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 09:30-09:43
	3-5km SSW	Heard	12	Shot		HMG	9-Mar, 09:30-09:43
	3-5km SSW	Heard	24	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 09:43-10:00
	3-5km SSW	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	9-Mar, 09:43-10:00
	3-5km SSW	Heard	6	Shot		HMG	9-Mar, 09:43-10:00
	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 10:10
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 10:40-10:45
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 09:53-09:55
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 10:24
	1-2km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 10:40
NE edge of Troitske (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	1.5-2km E	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	9-Mar, 11:41
About 1.5km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km WSW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	9-Mar, 13:30
About 1km NNE of Kalyновe-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	9-Mar, 13:45-14:00
	3-5km SSW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	9-Mar, 13:45-14:00
	2-4km N	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	9-Mar, 13:45-14:00

## Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).