

Daily Report 59/2021

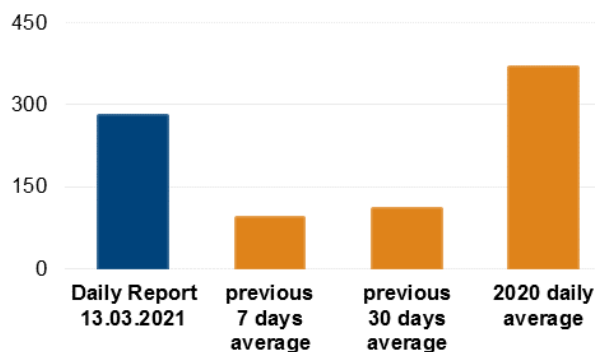
13 March 2021¹

Summary

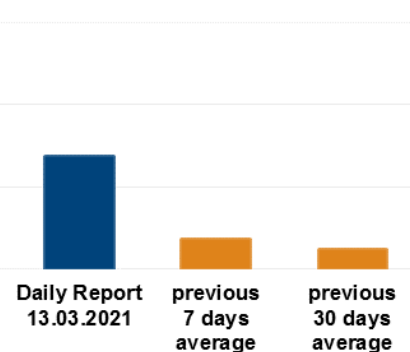
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 79 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 202 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 14 ceasefire violations in the region.
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle was damaged by small-arms fire near Troitske, Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded 93 ceasefire violations, including 73 undetermined explosions close to the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



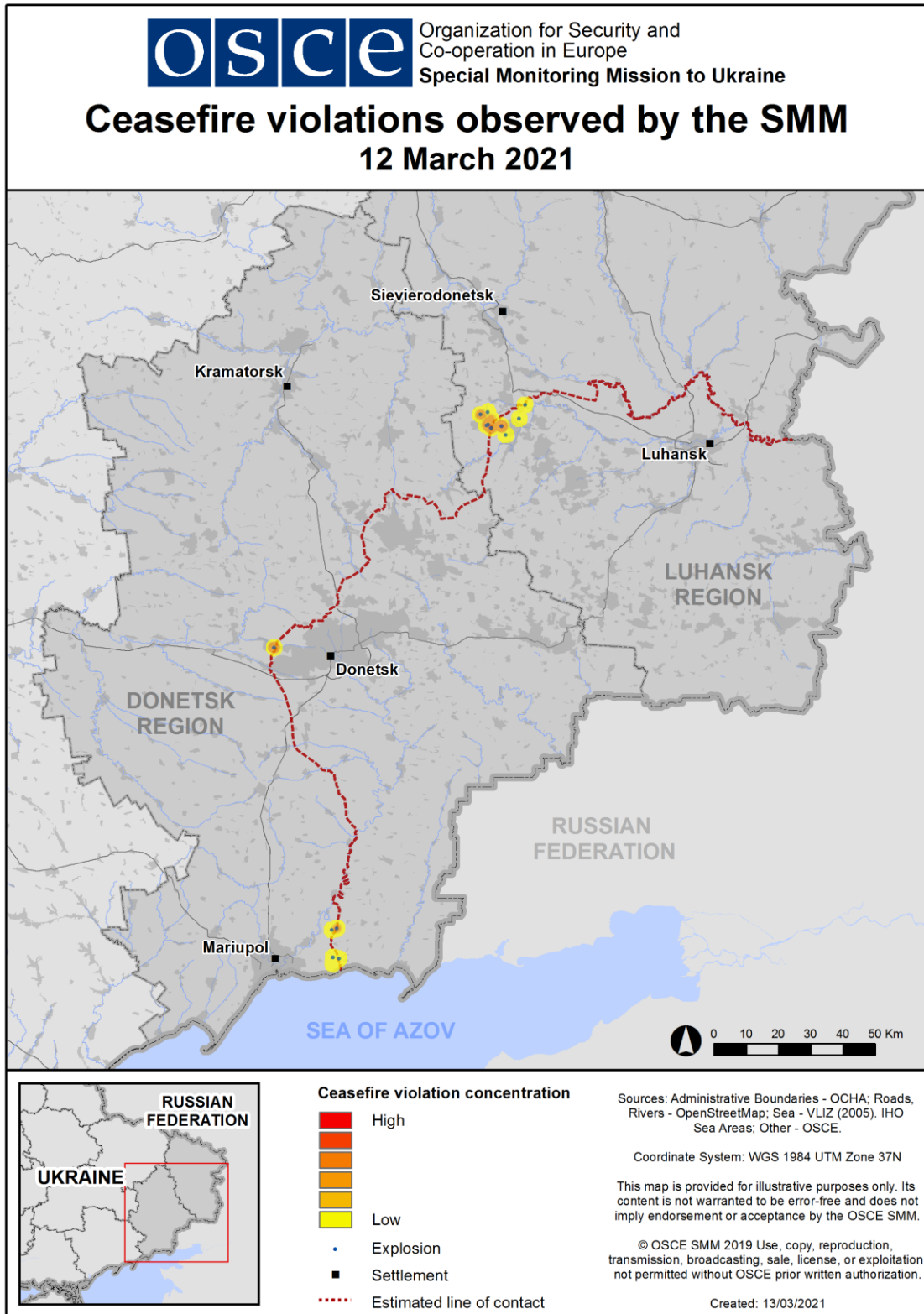
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 12 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 79 ceasefire violations, including 23 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas south-east of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) and north-east of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 202 ceasefire violations, including 182 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly, and south-westerly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below) and in an area south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 14 ceasefire violations, the majority of which occurred in areas north-west of Popasna.

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 12,155 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including at least 4,409 explosions, 1,462 projectiles in flight, 116 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,105 bursts and shots).

SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle damaged by small-arms fire near Troitske, Luhansk region

On 12 March, while positioned in Troitske (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM conducted an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight in the area. The UAV flew over areas about 1.7km east and west of the SMM's position. After landing the aircraft, the Mission saw a hole in one of its propellers assessed as caused by small-arms fire. The SMM did not see or hear any ceasefire violations in the area during the time of the flight.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed a calm situation.

On 12 March, while positioned at three locations close to **the disengagement area near Zolote**, the SMM heard 73 undetermined explosions and 20 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), three of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by a civilian car carrying two women in protective medical gear and a man in civilian clothing.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw again five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area's southern edge.

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

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. 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.

On 12 March, inside the disengagement area near Zolote, an SMM UAV spotted for the first time a crater (about 2m in diameter) with debris around it, assessed as fresh and caused by the detonation of an anti-tank mine (not seen in imagery from 16 January 2020), located in the area of a previously observed minefield about 1km north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

While positioned on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed one visibly armed man in military-style clothing about 200m east-south-east of the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, walking on road C-051532 towards Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk).

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the SMM observed two civilian vehicles driving from the direction of Styla (non-government-controlled, 34 south of Donetsk) towards Petrivske: one with three men and subsequently another one with two men, all dressed in military-style clothing.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed two tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, one of which was damaged. (For further information, see the table below.)

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At three heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region
12 March

The SMM noted that four multiple launch rocket systems (BM-27 *Uragan*, 220mm) were present and 17 anti-tank guns (MT-12 *Rapira*, 100mm), 12 self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm), nine towed howitzers (six D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm and three 2A65 *Msta-B*, 152mm) and three self-propelled mortars (2S9 *Nona-S*, 120mm) were again missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

The SMM saw six armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Mine hazard signs near Zolote-2/Karbonit

About 700m east-north-east of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw about 20 de-miners of an international organization placing mine hazard signs (red squares with white skulls) along the northern edge of road T-1316. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 10 March 2021](#).)

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); as well as maintenance to power lines near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk); and maintenance of sewage treatment infrastructure near a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with civilian traffic passing through them in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people passing through 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.

The Mission continued monitoring in Odessa, Lviv, Kherson, 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 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:⁸

- On 12 March, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, while positioned in Troitske (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV was damaged during a flight in the area. The damage was assessed as caused by small-arms fire. (See above.)

⁸ 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.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
12/3/2021	2	Tank (T-64), one of which with damage to its chain tracks	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Svitlodarsk (57km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
12/3/2021	3	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Kamianka (20km north of Donetsk)	

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

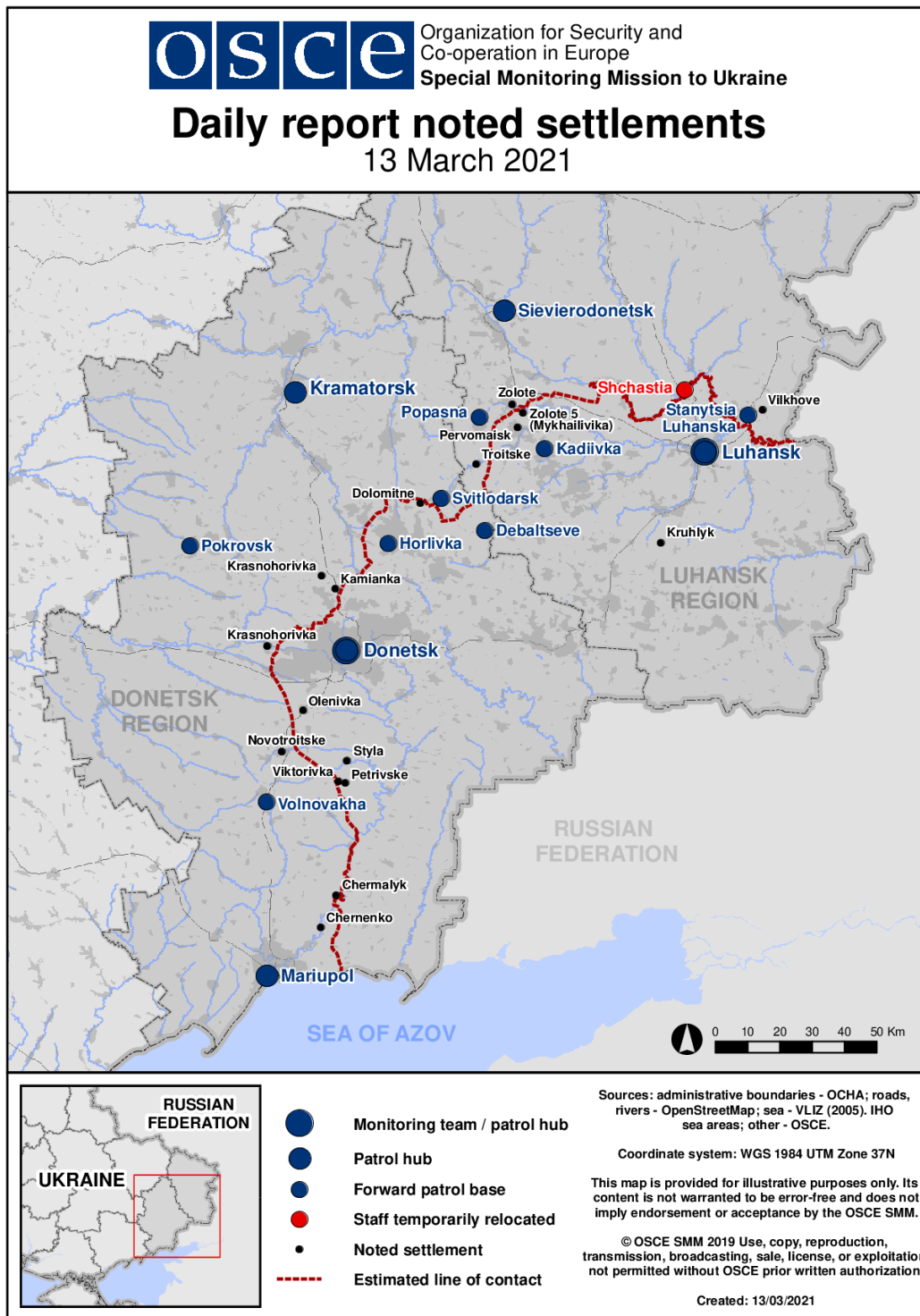
Table of ceasefire violations as of 12 March 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	3	Projectile		N/K	11-Mar, 21:26
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Mar, 23:34
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 03:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 18:06
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 18:11
Krasnohorivka (government- controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 13:05
	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 13:06
	1-2km SE	Heard	37	Burst		Small arms	12-Mar, 13:07-13:12
	1-2km SE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 13:08-13:10
	1-2km SE	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	12-Mar, 13:15
	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 13:17
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government- controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 08:50-09:02
	3-5km ESE	Heard	13	Burst		HMG	12-Mar, 08:50-09:02
	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 09:14
NE edge of Katerynivka (government- controlled, 64km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SSW	Heard	70	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	12-Mar, 10:56-11:20
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non- government- controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	7-10km WSW	Heard	14	Explosion	Undetermined (N/K	12-Mar, 11:02-11:22
	6-10km WSW	Heard	22	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 11:25-11:50
W edge of Pervomaisk (non- government- controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	6-11km WNW	Heard	28	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 12:35-12:55
	4-6km WNW	Heard	20	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	HMG	12-Mar, 12:35-12:55
	2-4km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 12:35-12:55
Zolote- 3/Stakhanovets (government- controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	12-Mar, 11:40-11:47
	5-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the	N/K	12-Mar, 11:40-11:47

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.

					disengagement area)		
					Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)		
	5-7km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	12-Mar, 11:40-11:47
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 11:40-11:41
	5-7km SE	Heard	37	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 11:46-12:46
	5-7km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Mar, 15:47-15:53

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).