

Daily Report 74/2021

31 March 2021¹

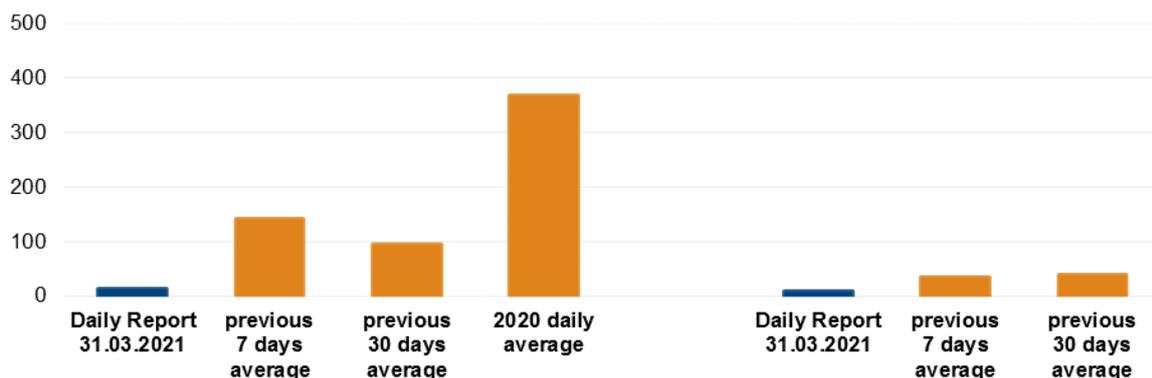
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded three ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It saw a person inside the disengagement area near Zolote during daytime.
- The SMM saw anti-tank mines, some for the first time, near Betmanove, Vasylivka, Spartak and Kruta Balka in Donetsk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard 13 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Novoazovsk, 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, 30 March 2021. All times are in Eastern Summer European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and in the southern part of the Zolote disengagement area were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

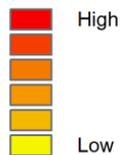


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 March 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: 31/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred at southerly and westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded three ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region.

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 13,789 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,839 explosions, 1,656 projectiles in flight, 167 muzzle flashes, 71 illumination flares and at least 7,056 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 30 March, 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).

During the day on 29 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted one person inside a former position of the armed formation near the eastern edge of the area and about 1.5km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 30 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission again saw 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. Inside the area, it again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another one about 350m north of its southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the SMM saw five 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 man in civilian clothing, reportedly a member of the armed formations, holding a camera.

On 30 March, while positioned at three locations close to the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed a calm situation.

On the same day, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission saw one man in military-style clothing carrying an assault rifle (AK-47 type) and walking eastwards on road C-051532 towards the settlement.

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

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 Mission observed eight weapons in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including some near a residential area, as well as 41 weapons in two training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

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

Anti-tank mines in Betmanove, Vasylivka, Spartak and Kruta Balka, Donetsk region

On 27 March, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time 17 anti-tank mines laid (unable to assess if recently) in a field on the western edge of Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On the same day, in fields about 1km west of the abovementioned anti-tank mines and about 1.5km north of Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the same UAV also spotted about 90 anti-tank mines, of which 44 were spotted for the first time (assessed as not recently laid), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 June 2020](#)).

On 28 March, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time six anti-tank mines laid (unable to assess if recently) across a road about 1.5km north-north-east of the northern edge of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk) and about 1km further south, about 40 previously observed anti-tank mines attached to wooden boards scattered across a road leading to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), all assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 8 July 2020](#)).

Also on the same day, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted six anti-tank mines (probable TM-62) laid across a road about 200m north of residential houses on the northern edge of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 18 March 2019](#)).

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, the SMM heard eight undetermined explosions and five shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

It also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka.

The Mission also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), as well as maintenance of power lines in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, in Vesela Hora (16km north of Luhansk), in Obozne (18km north of Luhansk) and in Khrystove (18km north of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the 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 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.

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 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 30 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.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations in Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westwards towards Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), referring to orders from superiors. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian cars 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 29 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) and Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk).
- On 30 March, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, on two occasions, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Mykolaivka Druha (government-controlled, 55km north 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 UAVs' positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near a residential area of Novoolenivka (48km north-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>)	In Tymofiiivka (39km north-west of Donetsk)	
	5	Tank (T-64)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	19	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaiivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 71 armoured combat vehicles ⁸	Aerial imagery
	22	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	

Other weapons⁹

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	15	Self-propelled howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaiivka (37km south-west of Luhansk)	Aerial imagery
	12	Towed howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)		

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/3/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	In a compound in Verkhnotoretske (23km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
28/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
29/3/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-2)	In a compound near a residential area in Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
29/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Myronivskiyi (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
30/3/2021	3	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
30/3/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In Luhansk city	Patrol

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

⁹ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

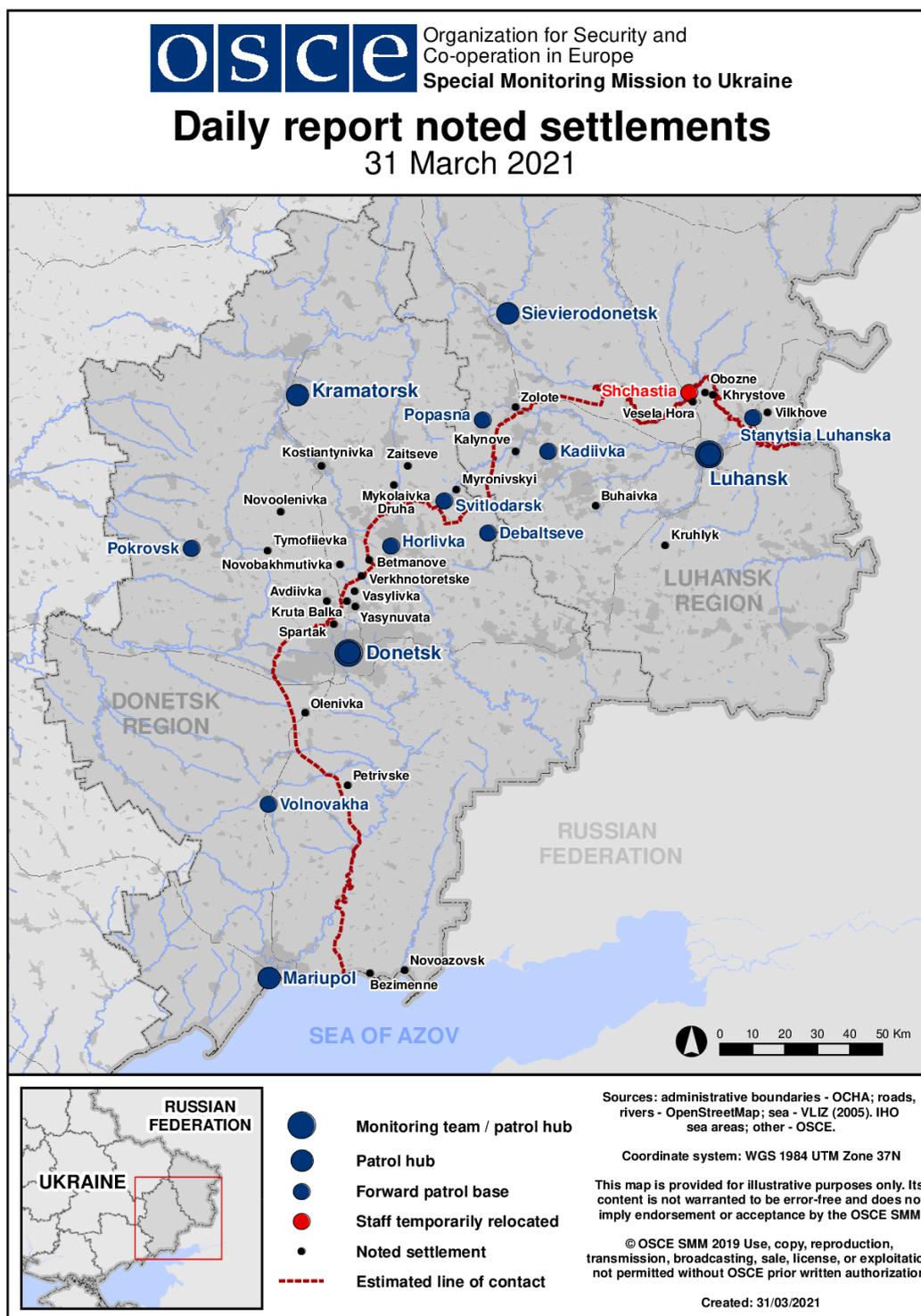
¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 March 2021¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Mar, 13:12
	3-4km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Mar, 13:46
	3-4km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Mar, 13:48
About 1.8km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Mar, 13:23
	3-4km S	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	30-Mar, 13:55

¹¹ 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 regions¹²



¹² 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).