

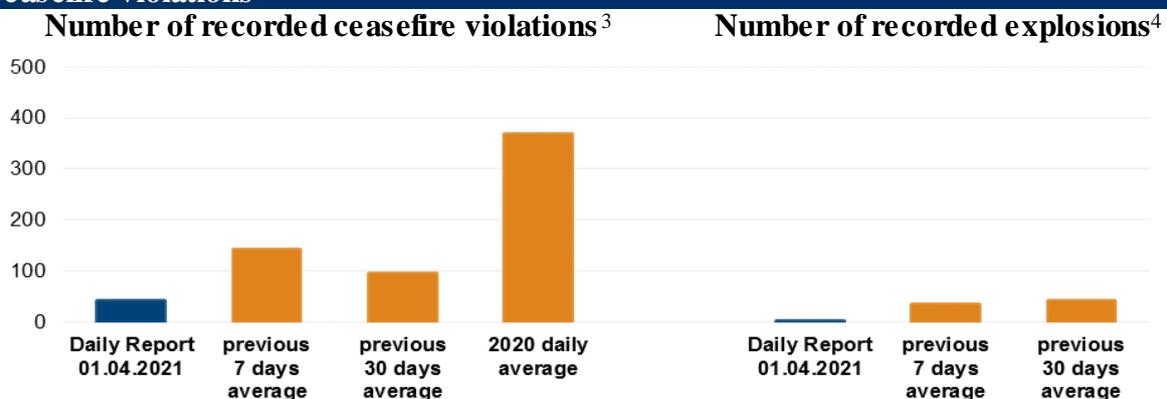
# Daily Report 75/2021

1 April 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 40 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Buhaiivka, Luhansk region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of the death of a man due to small-arms fire in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted in non-government-controlled areas, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka in Donetsk city, and at an airfield near Peremozhne, Luhansk region.\*

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



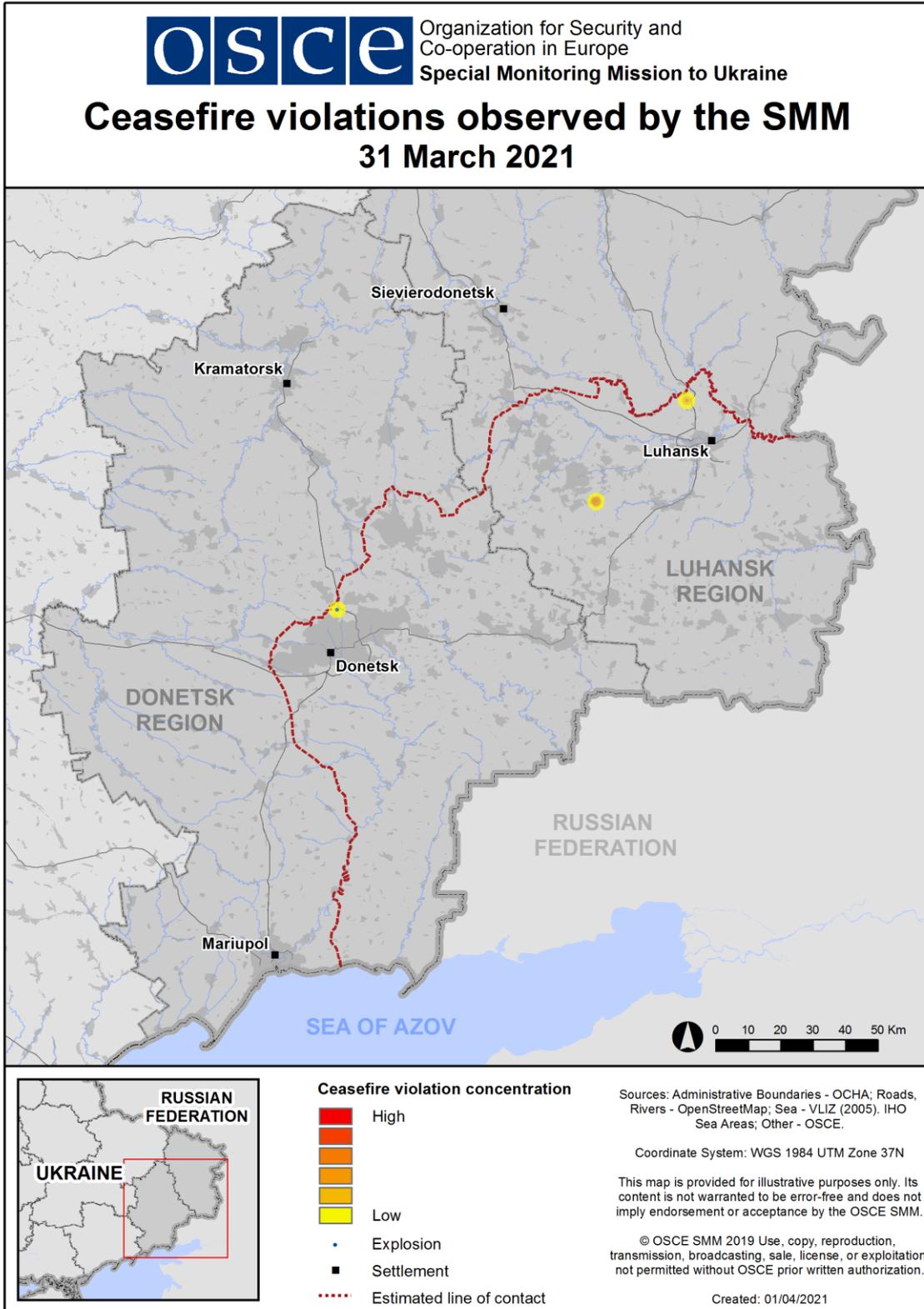
<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 31 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<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 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 one ceasefire violation - an undetermined explosion in an area south-south-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations, all at southerly and westerly directions of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 40 ceasefire violations (no explosions). The majority of them occurred at a southerly direction of Buhaivka (non-government-controlled, 37km south-west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no 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 13,830 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,840 explosions, 1,656 projectiles in flight, 167 muzzle flashes, 71 illumination flares and at least 7,096 bursts and shots).

### **Members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage at a checkpoint near Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region**

On the afternoon of 31 March, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations asked the SMM to open the trailers of its three vehicles for visual inspection, which the Mission refused. Despite efforts to facilitate the patrol's crossing towards government-controlled areas undertaken by the SMM during the next hour, the vehicles were not allowed to pass with their trailers. About an hour later, one vehicle was allowed to proceed through the checkpoint area without its trailer, in order to exchange diplomatic mail with another SMM vehicle coming from government-controlled areas. After the exchange, the vehicle returned to the checkpoint near Oleksandrivka and all three vehicles left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city (see below and [SMM Spot Report 4/2021](#)).\*

Such denials at checkpoints of the armed formations restrict the SMM's freedom of movement across the contact line, thus impeding the implementation of its mandate. In recent weeks, the Mission has twice faced similar denials at the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region (see SMM Spot Reports [1/2021](#) and [3/2021](#)).

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

On 31 March, while positioned on the south-eastern edge of Buhaivka (non-government-controlled, 37km south-west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard ten bursts and 15 shots of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 1.5-2km south-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.6km south-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.\*

### **Man died due to small-arms fire in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region**

The Mission followed up on reports of the death of a man on 22 March due to small-arms fire in Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk).

On 25 March, staff at a morgue in non-government-controlled Donetsk city, told the SMM that on 22 March, the body of a man (in his seventies) had been brought to the morgue with wounds to his chest and shoulder consistent with small-arms fire. On the same day, a woman, who introduced herself as a daughter of the deceased man, told the SMM over the phone that her father had been killed on 22 March by a bullet while standing in his yard in Oleksandrivka.

On 31 March, a woman (age unknown), who introduced herself as a neighbour of the deceased man, told the SMM over the phone that on the afternoon of 22 March she had been outside her house on Cheliuskintsiiv Street on the western edge of Oleksandrivka, when she had seen her neighbour (man, in his seventies) tending to his chickens in the yard of his house. The woman said that she had heard a loud shot and taken cover in her own house before running to her neighbours' yard after she had heard screaming. In the yard, she said she had seen her neighbour lying on the ground with blood near his head. She said that she had called an ambulance and that medical staff had told her to bring the man to Lenina Street, because of the ongoing shooting in the area.

In 2021, the SMM has corroborated two other civilian casualties (both men) due to small-arms fire in Oleksandrivka (see SMM Daily Reports of [16 March 2021](#) and [25 March 2021](#)).

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

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

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by an ambulance with a driver, a man and two women in medical protective gear.

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the SMM again saw previously observed eight containers located south of the disengagement area's southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

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.

### 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 15 multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed nine weapons in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, and 18 weapons in non-

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<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.

government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

### **Weapons storage sites**

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

31 March

The SMM noted that seven multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 *Grad*, 122mm) and five towed howitzers (2A65 *Msta-B*, 152mm) were missing for the first time.

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

### **Anti-tank mines near Holmivskiyi, Dolomitne, Travneve and Zaitseve, Donetsk region**

On 26 March, an SMM mid-range UAV [again](#) spotted ten anti-tank mines across a road about 1.2km north of Holmivskiyi (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), and again six anti-tank mines across a road about 800m west-south-west of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. The Mission also [again](#) spotted nine anti-tank mines about 600m south-west of Dolomitne, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same day, the same UAV [again](#) spotted 26 anti-tank mines about 800m west-south-west of Travneve (government-controlled, 51km north-east of Donetsk), and again eight anti-tank mines along a road about 1.2km east-south-east of Travneve. All mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On 30 March, an SMM mid-range UAV spotted 22 anti-tank mines across a road, about 2.9km south-south-east of Zaitseve, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 27 October 2020](#).)

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at a location near the station, the SMM heard one undetermined explosion assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

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 Zolote-5/Mykhailivka.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

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

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was open, but did not observe any traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queuing 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 the entrance of the former airport near Peremozhne (non-government-controlled, 19km south of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission access to the area, referring to ongoing preparations for a 9 May victory parade.
- On 31 March, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage through it (to conduct an exchange of trailers) after the Mission had refused to open its trailers for a visual inspection. An hour later, only one of three SMM vehicles was allowed to proceed, without its trailer, through the checkpoint to meet a fourth SMM vehicle coming from government-controlled areas and exchange diplomatic mail. After the exchange, all three SMM vehicles returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city (see above).

#### *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 30 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Novoselivka Druha (government-controlled, 23km north of Donetsk).
- On 31 March, while positioned on the south-east edge of Buhaivka (non-government-controlled, 37km south-west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 25 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun fire assessed as aimed at the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area (see above).

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<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>				
31/3/2021	15	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### 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>				
30/3/2021	3	Towed howitzer (undetermined variant)	Near Yablunivka (49km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	3	Tank (type undetermined)	Near Oleksandropil (43km north of Donetsk)	
31/3/2021	3	Towed howitzer (type undetermined)	Near Vyshneve (44km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
31/3/2021	3	Tank (T-64)	In a training area near Myrne ((28km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
27/3/2021	9	Tank (type undetermined)	In and near a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 29 armoured combat vehicles <sup>8</sup>	Aerial imagery
	6	Self-propelled howitzer (undetermined variant)		

### **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>				
30/3/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Pershe Travnia (57km north-west of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
31/3/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a residential area of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

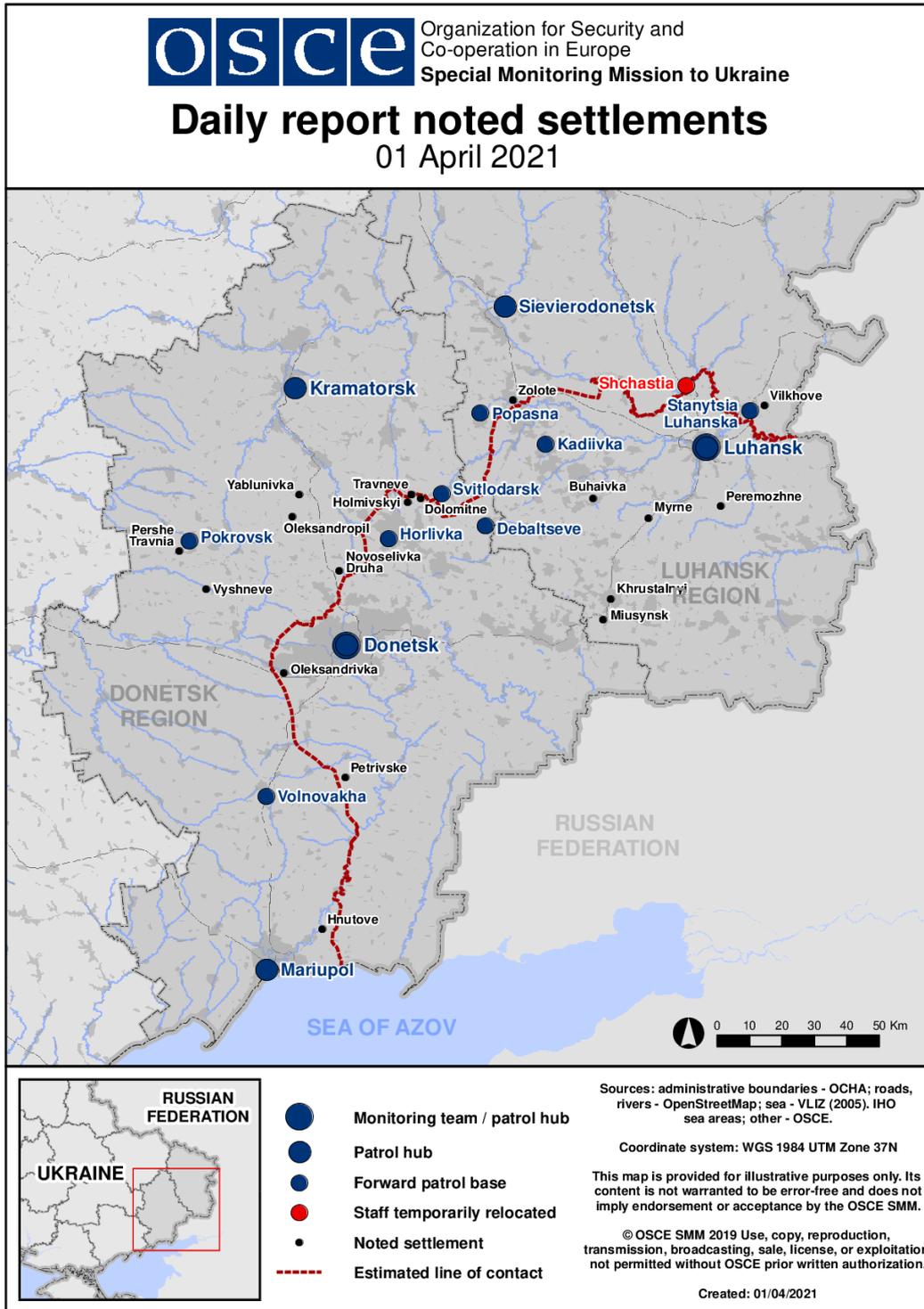
<sup>9</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 31 March 2021<sup>10</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 700m WSW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (inside 5km radius of Donetsk Filtration Station)	N/K	31-Mar, 12:44
About 2.5 km E of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	3-4km SW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	31-Mar, 11:05
	3-4km SW	Heard	12	Burst		Small arms	31-Mar, 11:11
SE edge of Buhaiivka (non-government-controlled, 37km SW of Luhansk)	1.5-2km SW	Heard	15	Shot		HMG	31-Mar, 11:51
	1.5-2km SW	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	31-Mar, 11:51

<sup>10</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.

### 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, 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).