



Daily Report 86/2021

15 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 118 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 54 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM lost spatial control of its mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near government-controlled Lebedynske, Donetsk region. Earlier in the flight, the UAV experienced GPS signal interference. The UAV was subsequently recovered.
- 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 and recorded 50 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, close to the Donetsk Filtration Station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four 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 near Olenivka, Donetsk region and at a railway station in non-government-controlled Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk), Luhansk region, near the border area outside government control. Its mini-UAVs experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

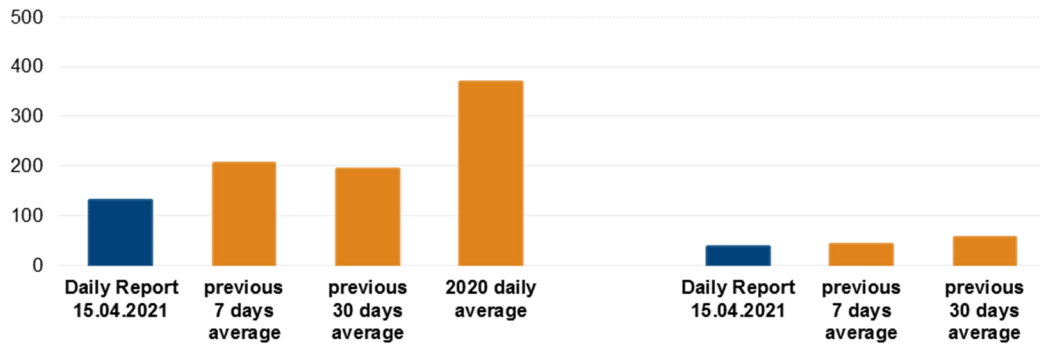
Number of recorded explosions⁴

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 April 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer 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.

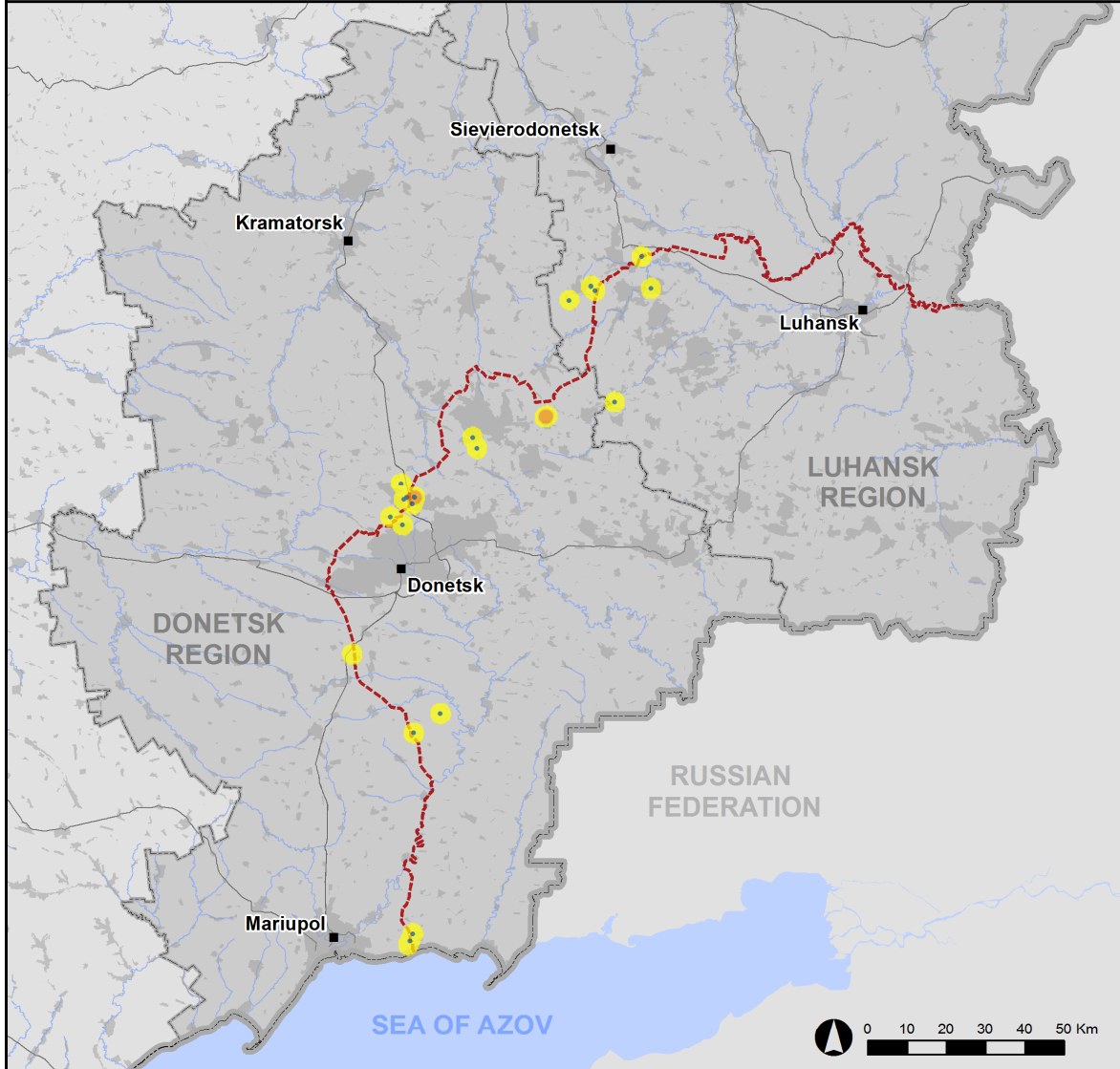


Map of recorded ceasefire violations

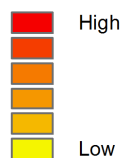


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 14 April 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: 15/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 118 ceasefire violations, including 24 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at northerly directions of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), and at north-easterly and north-westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 54 ceasefire violations, some of them near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at southerly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and at easterly directions of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no 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 18,278 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 6,172 explosions, 1,885 projectiles in flight, 183 muzzle flashes, 74 illumination flares and at least 9,964 bursts and shots).

The SMM lost spatial control of its mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle near Lebedynske, Donetsk region and subsequently recovered it

During the day on 14 April, the SMM was positioned in a residential area of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mid-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. At 13:54, while the UAV was flying over areas near Azov (formerly Dzerzhynske, non-government-controlled, 96km south of Donetsk), it began to experience GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, and the SMM commanded the UAV to return towards Lebedynske. At 14:05, the SMM lost spatial control over the UAV. The UAV was assessed as lost. The SMM conducted mini-UAV flights to locate the lost UAV and recovered it on 15 April.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard three undetermined explosions, at an assessed range of 6-8km north-east, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery. Also, the SMM saw two men in civilian clothing cleaning the ground inside the previously observed fenced perimeter south of the area’s southern edge and opposite of it, on the northern edge of the road leading eastwards to Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

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

While positioned near the same checkpoint, the Mission 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 an ambulance with two people in medical gear.

The Mission again saw the eight previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed distance of 5km south-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) but within 5km of its periphery.

Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM 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 saw two towed howitzers in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and three towed howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission observed 22 tanks, four surface-to-air missile systems and two towed howitzers, all in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including at a railway station. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM saw four armoured combat vehicles and one anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in a residential area, four armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, as well as ten armoured combat vehicles, including near a residential area, in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Mine hazard signs near Luhanske and Semyhiria in Donetsk region and near Tsvitni Pisky in Luhansk region

On 14 April, about 500m east of Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed for the first time a mine hazard sign (red square with a white skull and crossbones with “Stop, Mines” written on it in Ukrainian and Russian) in a field.

On the same day, about 200m south of residential houses in Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), on the western edge of Yahidna Street, the SMM observed for the first time a mine hazard sign (red square with a warning in Ukrainian about the presence of nearby mines written on it).

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

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, the Mission recorded 50 ceasefire violations, including eight undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

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) and maintenance of power lines in Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west 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) was open but saw no traffic passing in either direction. It also noted that checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km 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 Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The SMM 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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about one hour, the Mission observed 29 cars (including 20 with “DPR” plates), two buses (including one with “DPR” plates, with about 20 passengers of mixed ages) and 35 pedestrians (24 women and 11 men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 16 cars (including ten with “DPR” plates), two empty and 15 covered cargo trucks (including six with “DPR” plates), two buses (including one with “DPR” plates, with about 50 passengers of mixed ages and genders) and ten pedestrians (four women and six men of mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about one hour, the SMM did not observe any people or vehicles entering or exiting Ukraine.

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed no traffic. After about 10 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

The SMM also monitored areas along the border outside government control near Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk), Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk), and Kosharne (non-government-controlled, 61km south-east of Donetsk) and observed a calm situation.

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 below.) 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 near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards the most forward checkpoint of the armed formations south-west of Olenivka (to conduct an exchange of trailers), referring to their lack of written permission from senior members of the armed formations. The Mission left the checkpoint and returned to Donetsk city.
- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), after about 10 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.

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 14 April, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk) and Azov (formerly Dzerzhynske, non-government-controlled, 96km south of Donetsk), after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. The SMM recovered the UAV on 15 April. (See above.)
- On 14 April, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three separate flights over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

- On the same day an SMM mini-UAV was unable to take off due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, on the western edge of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas near Tsvitni Pisky (non-government-controlled, 11km north of Luhansk).
- On the same day, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Myrna Dolyna (government-controlled, 67km north-west of Luhansk). Subsequent flights were cancelled.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/4/2021	2	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Pryvilne (72km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/4/2021	3	Towed howitzer (D-30, <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Luhansk city	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
14/4/2021	19	Tank (T-80)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	2	Towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Khlibodarivka (65km south-west of Donetsk)	
	3	Tank (T-64)	Near Pryvilne (72km south of Donetsk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
1/4/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Novotoshkovske (53km west of Luhansk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle BMP-1)		
13/4/2021	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Berezhove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In Nevelske (18km north-west of Donetsk)	
14/4/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
13/4/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
13/4/2021	7	Infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
14/4/2021	3	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound near a residential area in Stare (formerly Chervonyi Prapor, 58km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

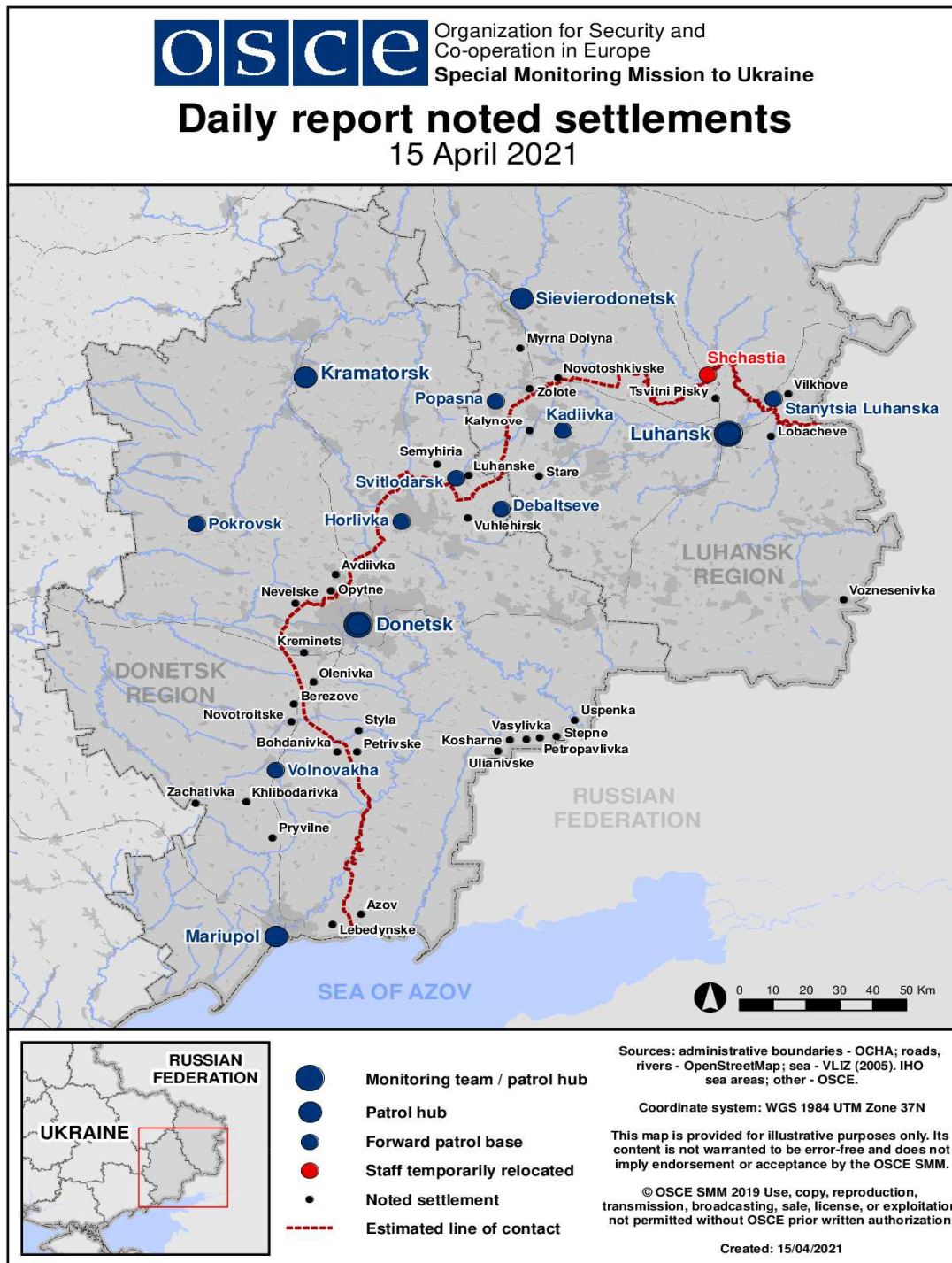
Table of ceasefire violations as of 14 April 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	0.5-1km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	13-Apr, 21:50
	0.5-1km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	13-Apr, 21:51
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Apr, 23:16
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 23:39
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 23:49
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 01:42
	5-6km SSE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 01:43-01:50
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	6-8km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 10:27
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 09:26
	3-4km WNW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 13:07-13:25
	3-4km WNW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	14-Apr, 13:07-13:25
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 13:21
About 3.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 11:08
About 2km WNW of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km NNE	Heard	23	Shot		Small arms	14-Apr, 10:37
About 1km N of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km NNW	Heard	25	Shot		Small arms	14-Apr, 10:59-11:00

⁹ 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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
Novohryhorivka (non-government-controlled, 61km NE of Donetsk)	6-7km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 12:26
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 10:23
	2-3km SE	Heard	20	Burst		HMG	14-Apr, 10:26
	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 10:28
	2-3km SE	Heard	20	Burst		HMG	14-Apr, 10:32
	2-3km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 11:23
Berezove (government-controlled, 31km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km E	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	14-Apr, 12:53
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	14-Apr, 13:24
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 20:52
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 20:47-20:50
	4-7km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 21:29-21:32
	6-8km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 21:31
	4-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Apr, 21:41
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	6-8km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Apr, 11:46
	6-8km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	14-Apr, 12:15
	7-9km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 12:31

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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).