Daily Report 87/2021

16 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 1,591 ceasefire violations, 1,528 of which were assessed as a probable live-fire exercise in a non-government-controlled area near the Donetsk Filtration Station. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 118 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 51 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) near government-controlled Pobeda and Marinka, Donetsk region. The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-UAV in government-controlled Krasnohorivka, Donetsk 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.
- 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 Mission saw trucks and cars bearing logos of international humanitarian organisations cross the contact line and travel towards non-government-controlled areas near Novotroitske and Olenivka, Donetsk region, and near Shchastia, Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming and its long-range UAV flight was again cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming.*



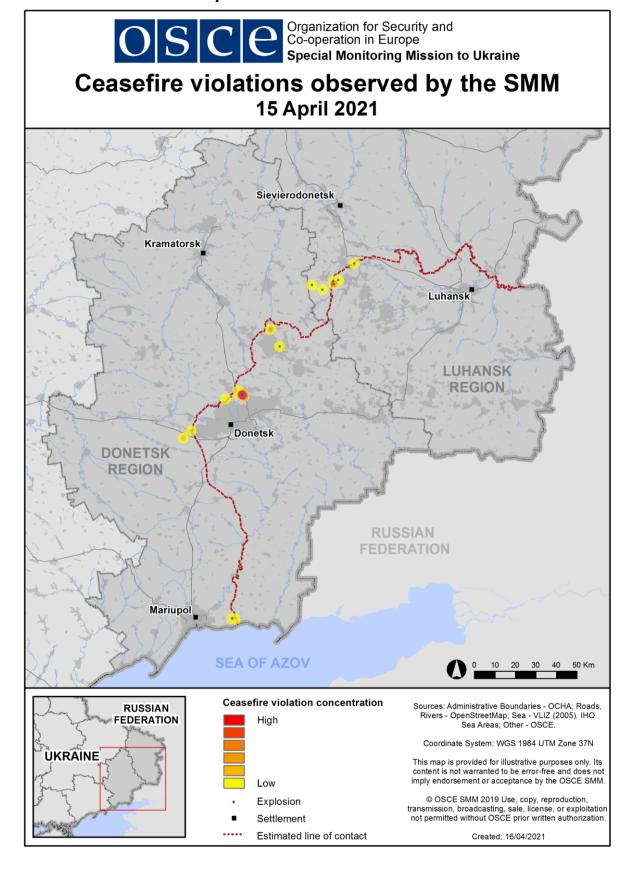
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 15 April 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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 fromunidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 1,591 ceasefire violations, including six undetermined explosions. The majority of these ceasefire violations (1,528) occurred at south-easterly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below) and were assessed as a probable live-fire training exercise in the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the <u>previous reporting period</u>, the Mission recorded 118 ceasefire violations, some of them near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 51 ceasefire violations, including 49 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at south-westerly directions of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the <u>previous reporting</u> period, the Mission recorded 13 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 19,920 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 6,227 explosions, 1,911 projectiles in flight, 183 muzzle flashes, 76 illumination flares and at least 11,523 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near Pobeda and Marinka, Donetsk region

While positioned about 900m north-east of Pobeda (government-controlled, 27km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard four bursts and ten shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 600-750m south-south-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 800m south-south-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

While positioned in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard eight bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 600-650m east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 600m east-south-east of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. The UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during the same flight.*

The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Krasnohorivka, Donetsk region

On 15 April, the SMM was positioned on the south-eastern edge of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight. At 13:35, while the UAV was flying about 1km east-south-east of the SMM's position, it began to experience GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The SMM commanded the UAV to return to its location, after which it lost spatial control over it and the UAV was assessed as lost. (See below.)*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 15 April, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw five 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).

On 14 April, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 15 April, while positioned at three locations near the area, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions and two shots of small-arms fire, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, 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. 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.

On 15 April, 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 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 Mission saw two anti-tank guided missile systems in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed four tanks, four anti-tank guns, two self-propelled howitzers and two mortars, 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 Mission saw 23 armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near residential areas, as well as 13 armoured combat vehicles and one anti-aircraft gun in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

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

While positioned at the southern outskirts of Lysychansk (government-controlled, 75km northwest of Luhansk), the SMM saw a helicopter, assessed as military, about 3km south-west of its location, flying in a south-westerly direction at an altitude of about 100m.

Anti-tank mines near Olenivka, Donetsk region and mine hazard sign near the disengagement area near Zolote, Luhansk region

On 13 April, in a field north of a road H-20, about 900m north-east of the forward position of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted 42 probable anti-tank mines, of which 34 for the first time and eight again, all assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Report of 5 March 2019.)

On 15 April, about 300m east-north-east of the south-eastern corner of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission observed for the first time a mine hazard sign (red square, yellow lettering with "Stop, Mines" written on it in Cyrillic) (not seen on 14 April) near a checkpoint of the armed formations, about 10m from a road.

Recent crater near the entry-exit checkpoint near Maiorsk, Donetsk region

On 15 April, at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk), in a field about 5m north of a road T-0513, the SMM saw a circular crater assessed as recent and caused by the explosion of an undetermined object. An officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) told the Mission that in the early morning of 13 April, three separate explosions had taken place near the EECP.

SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at four locations near the station, the Mission recorded 1,536 ceasefire violations: 1,534 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire (of which 1,528 were assessed as a probable live-fire exercise, see above) and two undetermined explosions, all 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), maintenance of power lines in Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk) and maintenance and repairs of sewage treatment installations 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 EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was open but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed for civilian traffic.

While positioned near the checkpoint near Olenivka, the Mission observed three cars and five trucks (three of which bearing the logos of three international humanitarian organisations) cross

the contact line towards non-government-controlled areas. Later during the day, the Mission saw the same three cars and five trucks driving in the opposite direction towards the checkpoint.

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 queueing 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 was closed.

While positioned near the EECP near Shchastia and near the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia, the Mission observed a truck, bearing logos of an international humanitarian organization, cross the contact line and travel towards non-government-controlled areas. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Report of 9 April 2021.)

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 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 15 April 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.

Delay:

- On 15 April, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), four members of the armed formations (three of them visibly armed) allowed the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas only after about 25 minutes.

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 long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk) and Zaitseve (government-controlled, 62km north-east of Donetsk), as well as dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas near Zaitseve and while landing at its base in Stepanivka.
- On the evening of 15 April, an SMM long-range UAV flight was cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, near its base in Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk).
- On 15 April, while positioned in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard eight bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The mini-UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during the flight. (See above.)
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pobeda (government-controlled, 27km west of Donetsk).
- On the same day, while positioned near Pobeda (government-controlled, 27km west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard ten shots and four bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV. (See above.)
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk), after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. (See above.)
- 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 Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km 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 Khoroshe (non-government-controlled, 36km west of Luhansk).

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.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	Date No. of weapons. Type of weapon		Location	Source of observation				
	Government-controlled areas							
14/4/2021	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P148 In a compound near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)							

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation			
		Government-	controlled are as				
14/4/2021	1	Tank (type undetermined)	(type undetermined) At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-				
	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	west of Donetsk) (For previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM</u>	Patrol			
	4	Anti-tank gun (types undetermined)	Daily Report of 15 April 2021.)				
15/4/2021	2	Mortar (probable 2B16 Nona-K, 120mm)	Near Krasne (65km north of Donetsk)				
	3	Tank (T-64)	Near Donske (57km south of Donetsk)				

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation	
		Government-c	controlled are as		
2/4/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Noon Nove to shiriyaka (52 km vyoot of Lyhonsk)	Mid-range	
2/4/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk)	UAV	
	10	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Dyliivka (52km north of Donetsk)		
	2	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Donetsk)	Long-range UAV	
14/4/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR variants)	Near a residential area of Newsgreeniyles (701cm		
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)		
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	In a residential area of Kyrylivka (76km south of Donetsk)	D . 1	
15/4/2021	6	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variants)	Near Zolote-2/Karbonit (62km west of Luhansk	Patrol	
13/4/2021	1	Military helicopter	Near Lysychansk (75km north-west of Luhansk)		
		Non-government	t-controlled are as		
	8	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Tsvitni Pisky (11km north of Luhansk)		
14/4/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a compound on the north-western outskirts of Luhansk city		
	4	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	I	Mini-UAV	
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM - 2)	In a compound on the north-western outskirts of Luhansk city		

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

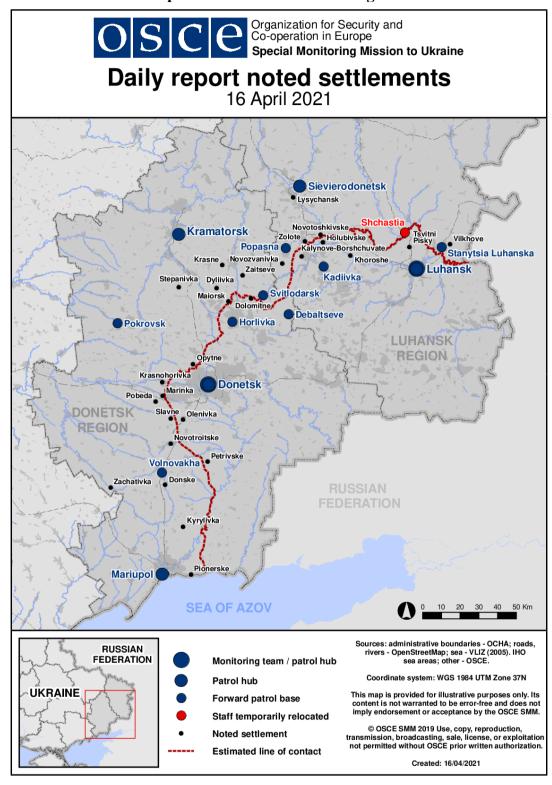
Table of ceasefire violations as of 15 April 20219

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit	3-5km E	Recorded	15	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	14-Apr, 22:46
checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	14-Apr, 22:53
,	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	E to W	N/K	14-Apr, 21:23
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	E to W	N/K	14-Apr, 21:31
SMM camera 1km SW of	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 21:44
Shyrokyne (government-controlled,	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	14-Apr, 23:39
100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	14-Apr, 23:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	14-Apr, 23:43
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	14-Apr, 23:44
	2-3km SSE	Heard	169	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 09:30- 09:45
	2-3km SSE	Heard	74	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 09:30- 09:45
	2-3km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 09:30- 09:45
About 1km NW of the railway	2-3km SSE	Heard	377	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 09:45- 10:00
station in Yasynuvata (non- government-controlled, 16km NE	2-3km SSE	Heard	54	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 09:45- 10:00
of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	189	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:00- 10:15
	2-3km SSE	Heard	23	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:00- 10:15
	2-3km SSE	Heard	395	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:15- 10:30
	2-3km SSE	Heard	38	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:15- 10:30
Railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km	2-2.5km SSE	Heard	32	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:40- 10:50
NE of Donetsk)	2-2.5km SSE	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:40- 10:50
About 700m WSW of the railway	2-3km SE	Heard	155	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:52- 11:15
station in Yasynuvata (non- government-controlled, 16km NE	2-3km SE	Heard	10	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 10:52- 11:15
of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 11:15- 11:30
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-	3-5km E	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 09:34
controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) About 2km S of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	4-5km ESE 3-5km S	Heard Heard	1	Shot		HMG Small arms	15-Apr, 09:57 15-Apr, 10:56
About 1km E of Holmivskyi (non- government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	8-10km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 10:05- 10:15
About 900m NE of Pobeda	600-750m SSW	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	15-Apr, 11:17
(government-controlled, 27km W of Donetsk)	600-750m SSW	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 11:17
Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	600-650m E	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	15-Apr, 12:17
Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	14-15km NNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	14-Apr, 19:35- 19:50

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also as sessed 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
NW edge of Holubivske (non- government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Apr, 11:48
About 1.5km NW of Kalynove- Borshchuvate (non-government- controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	2-3km SW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	15-Apr, 13:19
controlled, orkin w of Editalisk)	3-6km SW	Heard	38	Explosion	Undetermined	Mortar (type N/K)	15-Apr, 13:24- 14:08
	4-7km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 09:34
Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-10km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 13:47- 13:56
O9KIII W OI LUIIAIISK)	5-10km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Apr, 13:47- 13:56
E edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	15-Apr, 14:20

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions 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).