

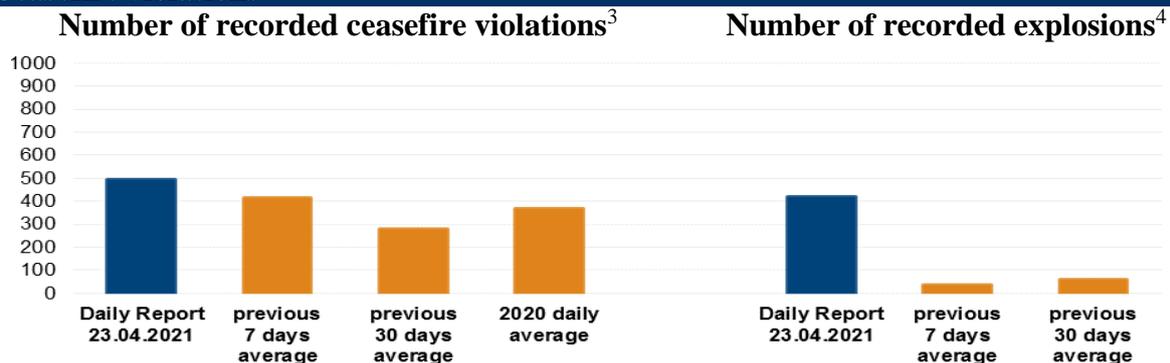
# Daily Report 93/2021

23 April 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 488 ceasefire violations, including in total 416 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 276 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM saw damage caused by gunfire to an inhabited apartment in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in a government-controlled area of Zaitseve, 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 three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points outside government control and monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation in Donetsk region.
- The Mission monitored various checkpoints along the administrative boundary line and the Sea of Azov and along the North Crimean Canal in south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Diakove, Luhansk region. Its UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.\*

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



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 April 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 and the SMM camera system at the Oktiabr mine were not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

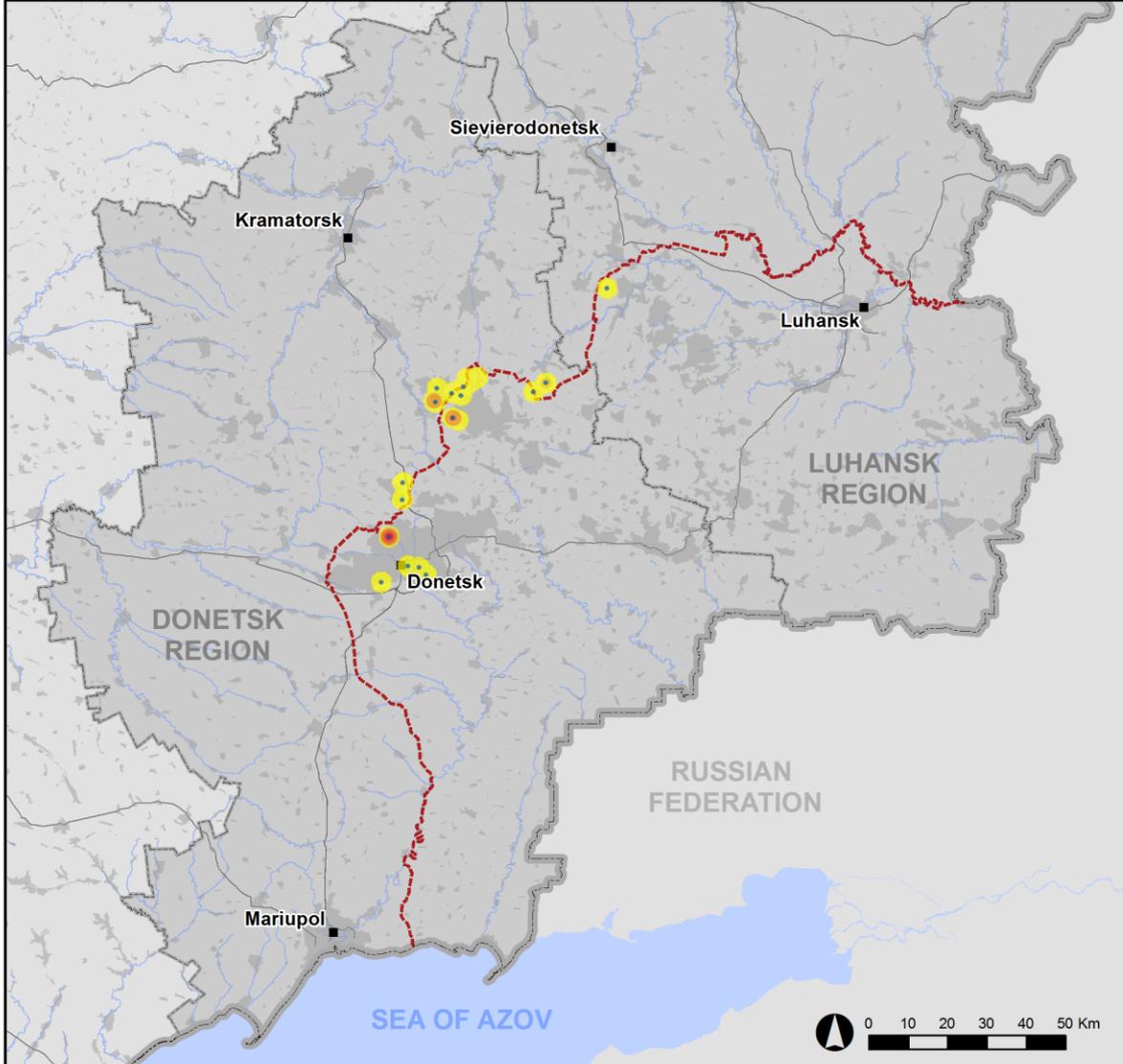
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

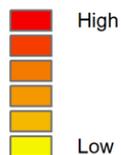


Organization for Security and  
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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 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: 23/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 488 ceasefire violations, including 416 explosions (one outgoing and 415 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred north-west of non-government-controlled Donetsk city and at westerly directions of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) on the early morning of 22 April, and in areas south-east of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 276 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, in areas south-south-west 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 21,668 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 6,856 explosions, 2,642 projectiles in flight, 194 muzzle flashes, 76 illumination flares and at least 11,900 bursts and shots).

#### **Damage due to gunfire to an inhabited apartment in non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka, Luhansk region**

On 21 April, the Mission followed up on reports of damage to an apartment in the south-western part of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), located about 1km south-east of the contact line.

On the second floor of a residential building at 1 Voikova Street, the SMM observed a hole (about 8x5cm in diameter) in the upper left-hand corner of the outer side of a north-facing plastic balcony door frame. Inside an adjacent room, the Mission saw another hole (about 15x20cm in diameter) in a north-facing wall next to the balcony door. On the floor, the SMM observed remains of plaster from the damaged wall and burn marks on the carpet, assessed as caused by a bullet. The Mission assessed the damage as fresh and caused by gunfire (calibre undetermined).

A woman (in her thirties), who introduced herself as the apartment's owner, told the SMM that at 20:00 on 20 April, she had been at home with her husband and daughter when they had heard gunfire nearby and had seen a bullet penetrating the balcony door frame, hitting the wall and landing on a carpet, causing sparks.

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

On 22 April, while positioned in a government-controlled area in the south-western outskirts of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of about 50m north of the patrol's location, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 80m north-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.\*

Such incidents, of which there has been an increasing number over recent weeks, put at risk both Mission members and SMM assets, and restrict the Mission's monitoring capabilities. For example, see SMM Daily Reports of [16 April 2021](#), [17 April 2021](#) and [20 April 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.

On the evening of 21 April, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person at a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 560m west-south-west of the area's north-eastern corner, as well as another person at a former position of the armed formations near the area's eastern edge, about 1.5km north-north-west of its south-eastern corner.

On the same evening, while in Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk), the Mission recorded six undetermined explosions, at an assessed range of 14-15km west-north-west, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 22 April, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw six 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 three people (two women, in their thirties, and one man, unknown age) in protective 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.

On the evening of 21 April, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person at a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 2.5km north-east of the area's south-western corner, as well as another person at a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

On 22 April, while positioned at three locations close to the disengagement area, 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 SMM observed four towed howitzers and a surface-to-air missile system in and near residential areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, and three towed howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.

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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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw 50 tanks, four self-propelled howitzers and three surface-to-air missile systems in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including at two compounds and a railway station, as well as 11 tanks in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, all at two training areas. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission saw six armoured combat vehicles and two anti-aircraft guns in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including near residential areas, and five armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Mine hazard signs near Komyshuvakha, Luhansk region**

On the northern outskirts of Komyshuvakha (government-controlled, 68km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed for the first time about 15 red mine hazard signs (each with skull and crossbones and “Danger. Mines” written in Cyrillic), assessed as recent, running for about 500m along the eastern and southern side of a local road.

### **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). While positioned at two locations near the station, the Mission recorded three undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, which occurred during the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving from Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) towards the station.

The Mission monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

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

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open, but did not see any civilian traffic, and that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was 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 and 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia were closed.

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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.

## Border areas outside government control

At a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about 35 minutes, the Mission observed 15 cars (including 11 with “DPR” plates), 14 covered cargo trucks (including eight with “DPR” and one with “LPR” plates), two mini-buses (including one with “DPR” plates, each of them carrying about eight people of mixed genders and ages) and 17 people (five women, 11 men, mixed ages, and a ten-year-old girl) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw eight cars (including seven with “DPR” plates), 13 covered cargo trucks (including seven with “DPR” plates), a bus (with “DPR” plates, carrying about 50 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 16 people (11 women and five men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

At a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 25 minutes, the Mission saw a man (in his fifties) entering Ukraine.

The SMM also visited areas along the border outside government control near Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk) and Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

## Security situation in south-east Kherson region

Between 19 and 22 April, the Mission monitored areas of south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson), Ivanivka (125km south-east of Kherson), Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson) and along the coast of the Sea of Azov in Henichesk (176km east of Kherson).

On 22 April, the SMM also monitored areas of the North Crimean Canal near Nova Kakhovka (59km east of Kherson), Tsukury (62km east of Kherson) Chornianka (57km east of Kherson), Shchaslyve (52km east of Kherson) and Yuvileine (49km east of Kherson).

While monitoring these areas, the Mission observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in 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 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 Diakove (non-government-controlled, 70km south-west of Luhansk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage south towards a border crossing point near Leonove (formerly Chervonyi Zhovten, non-government-controlled, 82km south of Luhansk), referring to a lack of prior coordination with those in control. Subsequently, he also asked to inspect the inside of its vehicles, which the SMM refused.

*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 21 April, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk) and Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk).
- On 22 April, while conducting a mini-UAV flight over Zaitseve, the SMM heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 50m north, assessed as aimed at the UAV. During the same flight, the mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area. (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 Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Stepanivka.
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over areas north-north-west of Donetsk city's Petrovskyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city center).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 21km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near non-government-controlled Luhansk city.

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<sup>7</sup> 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

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
21/04/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	In a residential area of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near a residential area of Shevchenko (59km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/4/2021	3	Towed howitzer (D-30A)	Near Vuhlehirsk (49km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

### 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>				
21/4/2021	2	Tank (type undetermined)	In Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	10	Tank (T-64)	At a military compound in Urzuf (132km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	6	Tank (T-64 variant)	Near Anadol (65km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )		
	19	Tank (T-64 variant)	In a compound near Andriivka (61km south of Donetsk)	
	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )		
22/4/2021	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Manhush (111km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
	12	Tank (T-64)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Tank (T-64)	Near Kalynove (formerly Kalinine, 65km south-west of Donetsk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/4/2021	10	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Shymshynivka (27km south-west of Luhansk), where 29 armoured combat vehicles were also spotted <sup>8</sup>	Aerial imagery
	1	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

### **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>				
21/4/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (one probable BMP-2 and one probable BMP variant)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Novomykhailivka (28km south-west of Donetsk)	
22/4/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Chermalyk (77km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM variant)		
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				

<sup>8</sup> The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section 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.

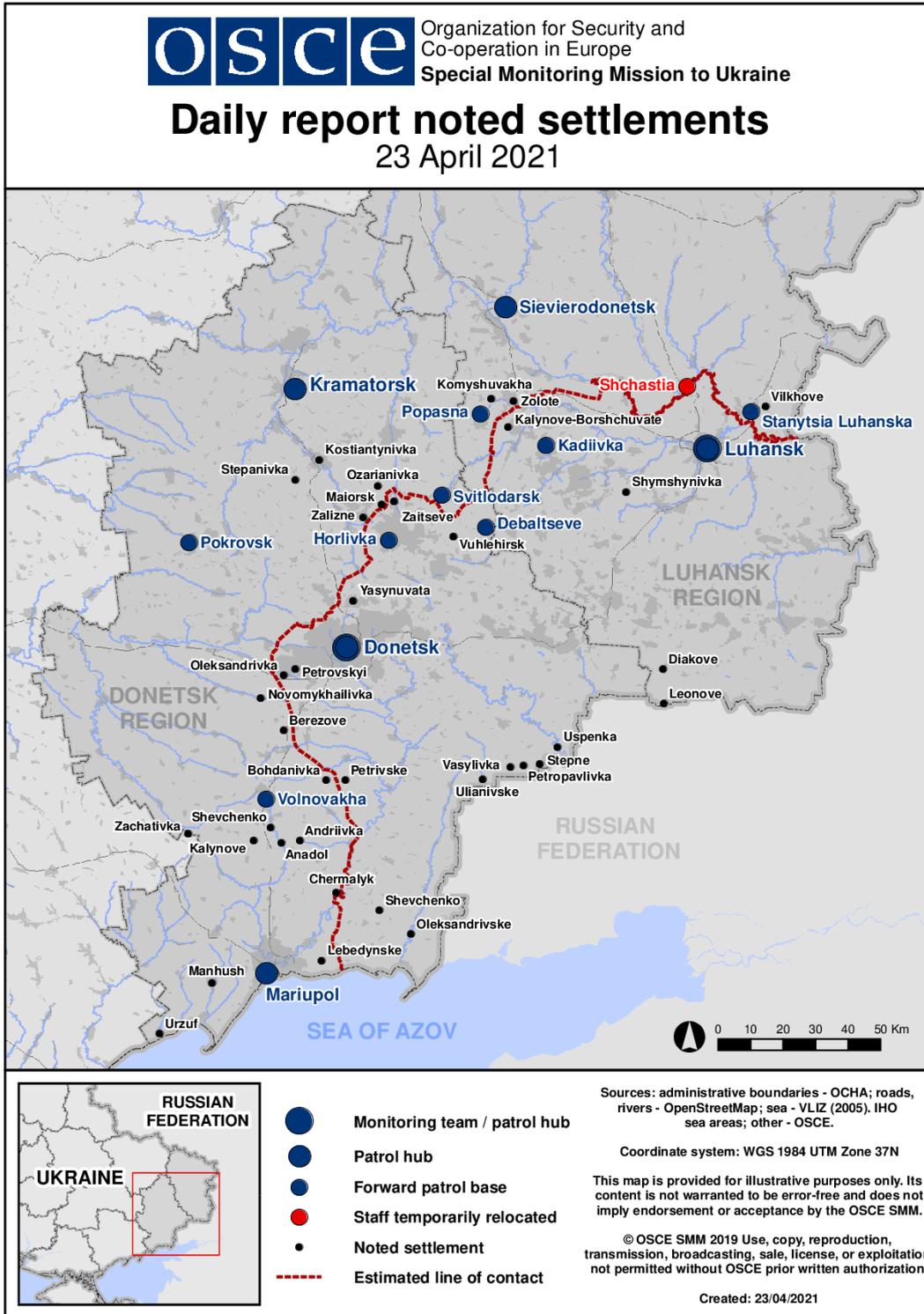
21/4/2021	4	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Kalynove-Borshchuvate (61km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Shevchenko (82km south of Donetsk), in a zone within which the deployment of heavy armament and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 April 2021<sup>10</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km NE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	22-Apr, 00:09
Donetsk city centre (non-government-controlled)	5-9km NW	Heard	300	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 04:30-05:20
	5-8km SE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 08:40-08:50
	9-10km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 08:40-08:50
	3-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 08:45-08:50
	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	22-Apr, 08:47
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 14:28
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 14:28
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-6km WNW	Heard	70	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 06:06-06:38
	2-4km WNW	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	22-Apr, 06:06-06:38
	3-6km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 06:47
About 7.5km NNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 08:50
	2-3km N	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	22-Apr, 11:37
About 600m SE of Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 09:36
Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3km S	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 09:35
	3-4km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 10:22
	3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 10:26
SW part of Zaitseve (50km NE of Donetsk)	50m N	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	22-Apr, 11:37
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Apr, 13:52
	1km SE	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	22-Apr, 14:20-14:21
	1km SE	Heard	11	Shot		Small arms	22-Apr, 14:22
	1km SE	Heard	30	Shot		Small arms	22-Apr, 14:23-14:26
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:03
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:08
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:13-20:14
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:16
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:19
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:26
	4-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:30
5-6km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Apr, 20:34	
Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	14-15km WNW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	21-Apr, 21:53-22:07

<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).