

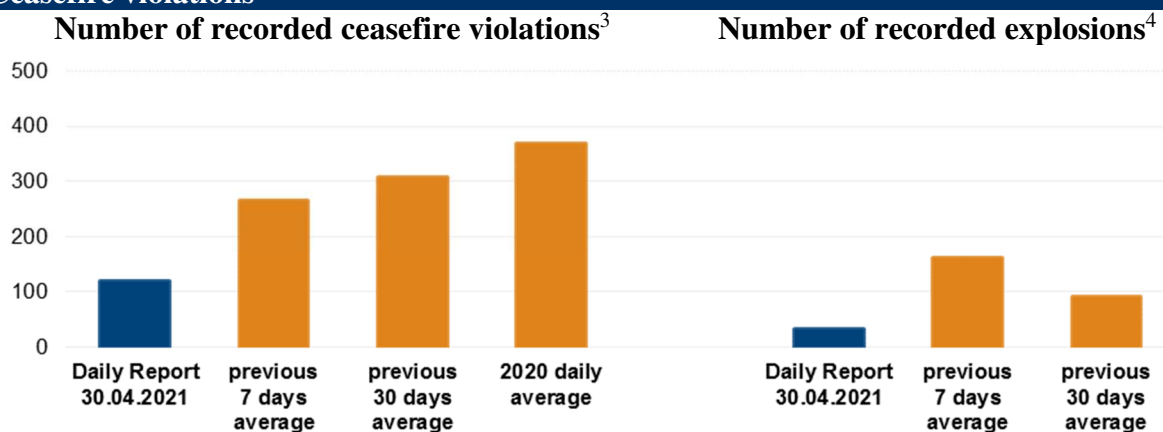
Daily Report 99/2021

30 April 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 82 ceasefire violations, including 27 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 15 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 36 ceasefire violations, including six explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- A man was injured due to an explosion while on a tractor near government-controlled Hnutove, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM observed anti-tank mines, some seen for the first time and assessed as not recently laid, near government-controlled Shyrokyne and non-government-controlled Sakhanka, Donetsk region.
- 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 three entry-exit checkpoints and the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including in non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region. Its mini-UAVs again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*
- The SMM monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region.

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 29 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 and the SMM camera system at the Oktiabr mine were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

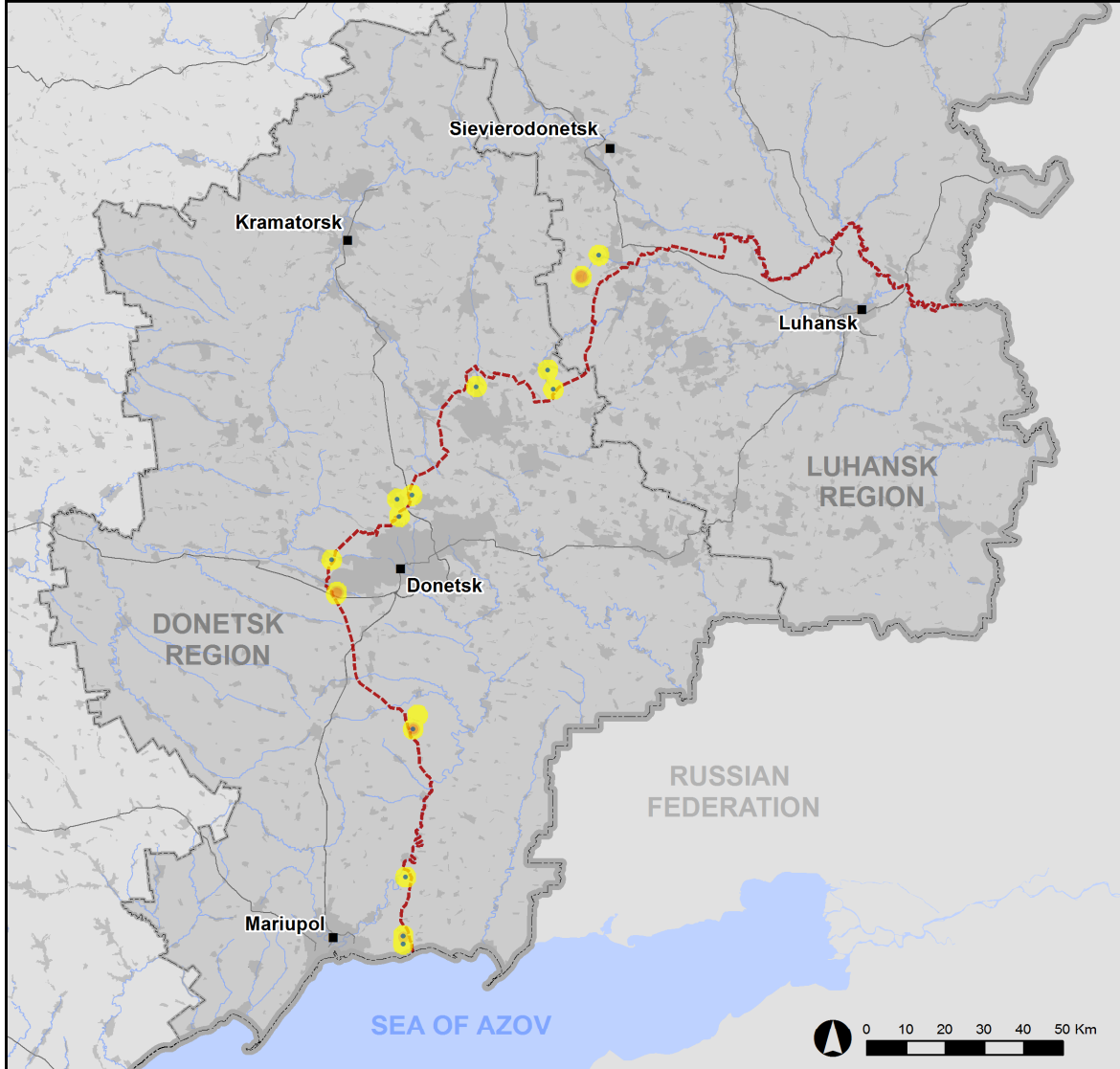
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

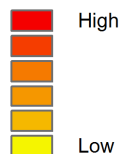


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 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: 30/04/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 82 ceasefire violations, including 27 explosions (one impact of a mortar round, one airburst, which was also seen, and 25 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred at southerly directions of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) (see below), in areas south-west of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) (see below) and north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 15 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 36 ceasefire violations, including six undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations were recorded at north-easterly and easterly directions of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), including some close to the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 22 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 23,160 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 7,595 explosions, 2,833 projectiles in flight, 196 muzzle flashes, 79 illumination flares and at least 12,457 bursts and shots).

Small arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAV near Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

On 29 April, while positioned on the north-western edge of Oleksandrivka to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km south-south-west, assessed as directed at the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, about 1.5km south-south-west of the SMM's position. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Man injured due to an explosion while on a tractor near Hnutove, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a man who suffered injuries due to an explosion on 15 April while driving a tractor in a field near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk).

On 17 April, in Hnutove, a 51-year-old man told the Mission that on the afternoon of 15 April, he had been driving a tractor in a field about 1km north-east of the settlement when he had heard an explosion behind the tractor. He said his friends had brought him to Hospital No.2 in Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk) on the same day. The Mission saw a fresh scar on the man's neck.

On 21 April, medical staff at Hospital No.2 in Mariupol told the SMM, over the phone, that a man had been admitted with shrapnel injuries to his neck and right hand on the afternoon of 15 April.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 29 April, while positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two 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 the evening of 28 April, while positioned on the northern edge of Popasna, the SMM heard six undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 6-8km north-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

On 29 April, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over the disengagement area.*

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, 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 one driver and five people (three men and two women, mixed ages, the latter wearing medical protective 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 on the western edge of Petrivske, the SMM recorded two shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km north-east, as well as an undetermined explosion and 23 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km south, all assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** 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 Mission saw two mortars in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and two self-propelled howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw two tanks in a compound in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the tables 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.

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At two heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region
29 April

The Mission noted that four anti-tank guns (MT-12 *Rapira*, 100mm) and 15 self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) were present, and that 86 towed howitzers (49 2A36 *Giatsint-B*, 152mm, and 37 2A65 *Msta-B*, 152mm) were again missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

The Mission saw four armoured combat vehicles and an anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including near a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Shyrokyne and Sakhanka, in Donetsk region

On 21 April, near the north-eastern edge of Shyrokyne, across road M-14 and in fields nearby, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 114 anti-tank mines (20 of which were seen for the first time and were assessed as not recently laid), all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see the SMM Daily Reports of [28 January 2020](#) and [9 May 2020](#).)

On the same day, across the same road and in fields about 2.5km and about 2km south-south-west of the southern edge of Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), respectively, an SMM mini-UAV spotted about 55 anti-tank mines (31 of which were spotted for the first time and were assessed as not recently laid), all assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see the SMM Daily Reports of [1 August 2020](#) and [6 March 2021](#).)

On 29 April, about 30m north of the road between government-controlled Rozivka (32km north of Donetsk) and Novoselivka (31km north of Donetsk), the Mission saw, for the first time, a green improvised mine hazard sign with “Mine” written on it in Cyrillic.

On the same day, about 2km south-east of Myrna Dolyna (government-controlled, 67km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM observed six people in light grey clothing, assessed as belonging to an international de-mining organization, in a field about 75m west of road P-66. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 10 March](#).)

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 SMM recorded two ceasefire violations (both undetermined explosions), assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localized ceasefire 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 Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (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. The Mission noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was closed, and that the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia was closed for civilian traffic.

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 17 trucks bearing the logo of an international organization cross the contact line and travel towards non-government-controlled areas.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 27 and 28 April, the Mission monitored areas of south-east Kherson region at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson), at checkpoints near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson) and Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and along the coast of the Azov Sea near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson). On 27 April the SMM monitored areas near positions of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Armed Forces units in the area of Cape Kutara near Druzheliubivka (121km south-east of Kherson). On both days it 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 Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (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 29 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.

Denial:

- In Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations, one of whom was visibly armed, approached the Mission and told it not to launch the UAV or it would be shot down, as they cited “the need to wait for confirmation from their superiors”. The SMM left the area and relocated to a different location.

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:^{8,9}

- While positioned on the north-western edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire, assessed as directed at the UAV. (See above.)
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city’s Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled).
- Four SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five separate flights over areas near Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three separate flights over areas near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during two separate flights over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

⁸ 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.

⁹ SMM long-range UAV flights are temporarily paused and will recommence after further assessment. See [SMM Daily Report 26 April](#) and [SMM Spot Report 11/2021](#).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/4/2021	2	Mortar (type undetermined)	Near Shyrokyne (100km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/4/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/4/2021	2	Tank (T-64)	In a compound near Perevalsk (38km west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 17 armoured combat vehicles and one anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) ¹⁰	Mini-UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹¹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
28/4/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-1)	Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (probable MT-LB)		
29/4/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near a residential area in Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	

¹⁰ These armoured combat vehicles and the anti-aircraft gun are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

¹¹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

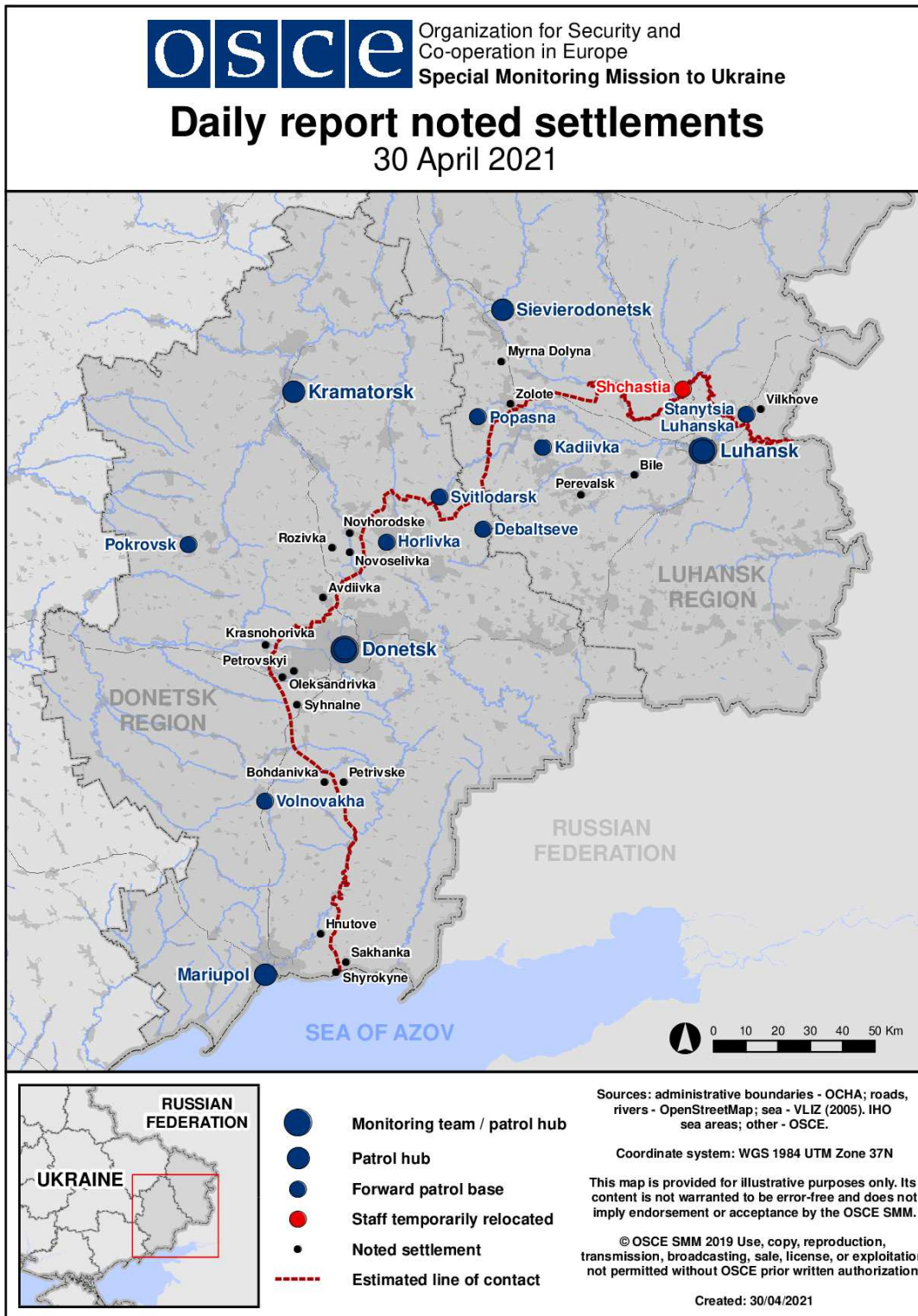
Table of ceasefire violations as of 29 April 2021¹²

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)	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:48
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	28-Apr, 23:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	28-Apr, 23:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	28-Apr, 23:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:29
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash			28-Apr, 23:29
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	28-Apr, 23:29
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	28-Apr, 23:29
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	28-Apr, 23:38
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	28-Apr, 23:38
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:42
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:45
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Apr, 23:46
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 00:18
	NW edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1.5km SSW	Heard	6	Shot		Small arms
1km SSW		Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	29-Apr, 10:58-11:07
Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	6-7km NNE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 12:05-12:10
W edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km NE	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Apr, 13:05
	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Apr, 13:07
	2-3km S	Heard	23	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Apr, 13:12-13:25
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 14:09
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 14:12
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 13:34
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 07:00
	6-8km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Apr, 07:02
About 1.4km NW of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	3km E	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Impact	Mortar (type N/K)	29-Apr, 10:59
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	6-8km NE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	28-Apr, 20:28-20:32

¹² 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
	600-800m SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	28-Apr, 23:33-23:34
	600-800m SE	Heard	27	Shot		Small arms	29-Apr, 02:00-02:10

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹³



¹³ 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).