

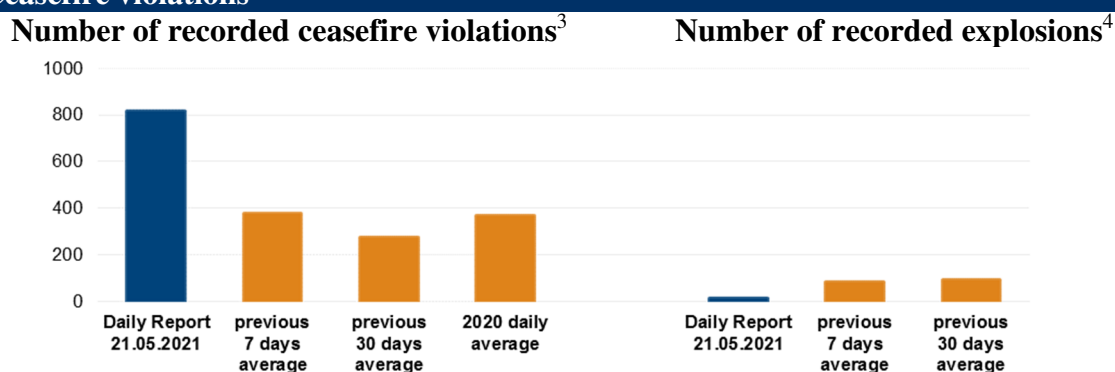
# Daily Report 116/2021

21 May 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 815 ceasefire violations, including 13 explosions. 774 of these ceasefire violations were assessed as a live-fire exercise near non-government-controlled Sofiivka (formerly Karlo-Marksove). In the previous reporting period, it recorded 118 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation; an undetermined explosion. In the previous reporting period, it also recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of a woman injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in a non-government-controlled area of Zaitseve, Donetsk region.
- An explosion occurred close to an SMM patrol near government-controlled Avdiivka, 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 the maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission 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 SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including again at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka, Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.\*

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



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 May 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

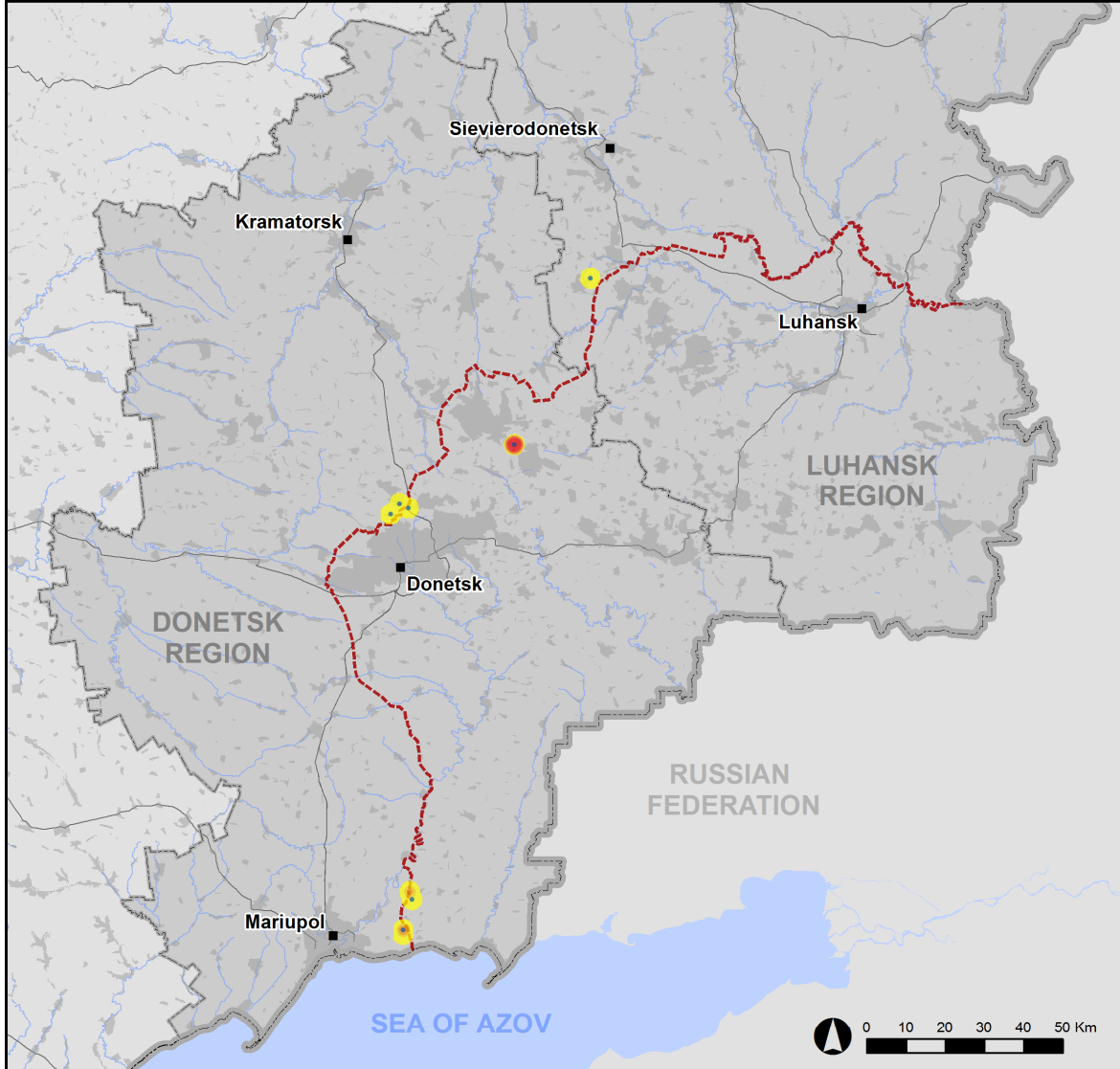
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

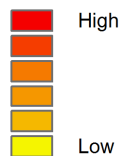


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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 20 May 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: 21/05/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 815 ceasefire violations, including 13 explosions (one airburst and 12 undetermined). 774 of these ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-west of Sofiivka (formerly Karlo-Marksove, non-government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk) and were assessed as a 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 [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 118 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation; one undetermined explosion in an area east of Popasna (government-controlled 69km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission also recorded one ceasefire violation.

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 recorded at least 29,706 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 9,152 explosions, 4,690 projectiles in flight, 214 muzzle flashes, 99 illumination flares and at least 15,551 bursts and shots).

#### **A woman injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in a non-government-controlled area of Zaitseve, Donetsk region**

The Mission followed up on reports of a 64-year-old woman injured due to the detonation of an unidentified explosive object in a non-government-controlled area of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk) on 6 April 2021.

On 14 May, a 64-year-old woman told the Mission over the phone that on the afternoon of 6 April, while she had been raking ashes of burned leaves near her house at 70 Politaieva Street in Zaitseve, she heard an explosion nearby and only then realised that she was injured and visibly bleeding.

On 17 May, the woman showed the SMM a medical certificate which stated that she had sustained multiple shrapnel injuries to various parts of her body, due to an explosion on 6 April. On 20 May, the Mission again saw the recovering woman in Zaitseve, and noted that she had bandages on her right leg and arm.

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

At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations asked the Mission to show the SMM's vehicles' registration documents two times, which the Mission refused. Despite efforts to facilitate the patrol's crossing towards government-controlled areas, the vehicles were not allowed to pass and were unable to conduct an exchange of trailers with another patrol coming from government-controlled areas. After almost two hours, the Mission left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city. (See below and [SMM Spot Report 15/2021](#).)\*

### Explosion near SMM patrol near Avdiivka, Donetsk region

An SMM patrol comprising of five members and two vehicles was positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk).

Despite security guarantees having been provided that a localized ceasefire would be adhered to, at 10:20, the patrol members, of whom one was outside and four inside the vehicles, heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed distance of 500m south of their position. The patrol was unable to assess the weapon used and the direction of fire.

The SMM left the area and relocated to a different location.\*

### 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 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).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area, about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

At the gates of a fenced perimeter with five containers south of the area’s southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM observed five workers (men in their thirties and forties), unloading sand from a truck.

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

While positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission 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.

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

The Mission saw five armoured combat vehicles: one near a residential area in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region and four in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, some of which in a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

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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.

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

### **Presence of unexploded ordnance in Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove) and mine hazard signs near Zaitseve, Donetsk region**

On 19 May, in a residential area of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw for the first time six anti-tank mines (TM-62) without detonators, assessed as unexploded ordnance (UXO), lying on the ground.

Near a residential area in a non-government-controlled part of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed two mine signs for the first time (white boards with red skull and crossbones and “Danger, Mines” written on them in Russian) on both sides of a local road.

About 2km north-north-west of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw members of an international organization conducting de-mining activities in fields along the road’s western and eastern edges.

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka, the Mission heard one undetermined explosion, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS (see above).

The SMM also monitored the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

### **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 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.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi and Kyiv.

### **Border areas outside government control**

On 16 May, at an agricultural complex about 400m east of the eastern edge of Samiilove (89km south of Donetsk) and about 2km west of the international border where there are no border crossing facilities<sup>7</sup>, aerial imagery available to the SMM revealed the presence of three stationary, probable military-type vehicles.

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<sup>7</sup> According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

## **\*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, 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 19 May 2021](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.*

### Denial:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas to conduct an exchange of trailers. After almost two hours, the SMM left the checkpoint and returned to non-government-controlled Donetsk city. (See above and [SMM Spot Report 15/2021](#).)

### *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.

### Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), three members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage towards non-government-controlled Luhansk city only after about 20 minutes, referring to the SMM's need for a written permission from those in control.

### Other impediments:<sup>8</sup>

- While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) to facilitate the operation of the DFS (15km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of about 500m south of its position. The Mission left the area (see above).
- An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, government-controlled, 52km north of Donetsk).
- The SMM was also unable to launch a mid-range UAV near Ozarianivka due to persistent GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.

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<sup>8</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.

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km southwest of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk).

## Tables of weapons

### 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>     |     |                                     |                                                                                |                       |
| 20/5/2021                              | 1   | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70) | Near a residential area of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)                   | Patrol                |
| <b>Non-government-controlled areas</b> |     |                                     |                                                                                |                       |
| 14/5/2021                              | 1   | Combat engineering vehicle (IMR-2)  | In a compound in a residential area in Debaltseve (58km north-east of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV              |
|                                        | 1   | Trench digger (PZM-2)               |                                                                                |                       |
| 19/5/2021                              | 1   | Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)   | Near Starobesheve (32km south-east of Donetsk)                                 | Patrol                |
|                                        | 1   | Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80) |                                                                                |                       |

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

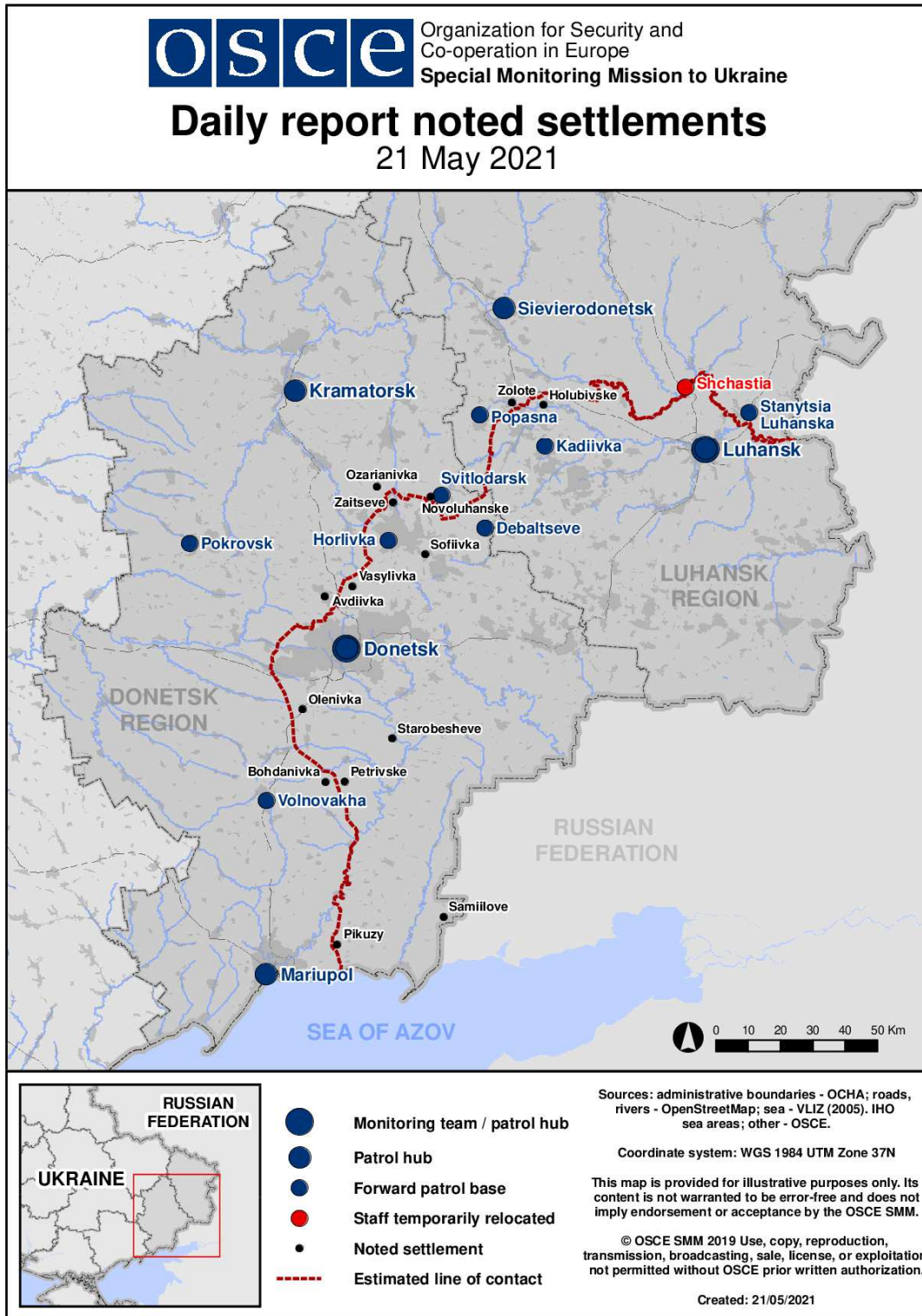


**Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 May 2021<sup>10</sup>**

| SMM position                                                               | Event location                                                                                     | Means     | No.   | Observation  | Description                             | Weapon     | Date, time          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)          | 3-5km ESE                                                                                          | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 20-May, 00:53       |
| SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)  | 4-6km ESE                                                                                          | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 19-May, 21:46       |
|                                                                            | 3-5km E                                                                                            | Recorded  | 16    | Projectile   | SSW to NNE                              | N/K        | 19-May, 23:26       |
| SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk) | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 19-May, 21:39       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 19-May, 21:43       |
|                                                                            | 4-6km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Muzzle flash |                                         | N/K        | 19-May, 21:44       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 2     | Muzzle flash |                                         | N/K        | 19-May, 21:45       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Muzzle flash |                                         | N/K        | 19-May, 23:22       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Projectile   | E to W (subsequent to previous event)   | N/K        | 19-May, 23:22       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Airburst (subsequent to previous event) | N/K        | 19-May, 23:22       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 5     | Projectile   | W to E                                  | N/K        | 19-May, 23:27       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 19-May, 23:47       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 20-May, 00:05       |
|                                                                            | 4-6km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Projectile   | SSE to NNW                              | N/K        | 20-May, 02:23       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 6     | Projectile   | E to W                                  | N/K        | 20-May, 02:23       |
|                                                                            | 5-7km N                                                                                            | Recorded  | 1     | Projectile   | In vertical flight                      | N/K        | 20-May, 02:23       |
|                                                                            | About 2.5km S of Sofiivka (formerly Karlo-Marksove, non-government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk) | 1.5-2km W | Heard | 270          | Shot                                    |            | Small arms          |
| 1.5-2km W                                                                  |                                                                                                    | Heard     | 250   | Burst        |                                         | HMG        | 20-May, 10:15-10:30 |
| 1.5-2km W                                                                  |                                                                                                    | Heard     | 250   | Shot         |                                         | Small arms | 20-May, 10:15-10:30 |
| 1.5-2km W                                                                  |                                                                                                    | Heard     | 4     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 20-May, 10:15-10:30 |
| SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)             | 500m S                                                                                             | Heard     | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 20-May, 10:20       |
| About 2km S of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)         | 2-4km S                                                                                            | Heard     | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 20-May, 10:38       |
| SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk) | 2-4km ESE                                                                                          | Recorded  | 1     | Explosion    | Undetermined                            | N/K        | 19-May, 23:55       |

<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).