

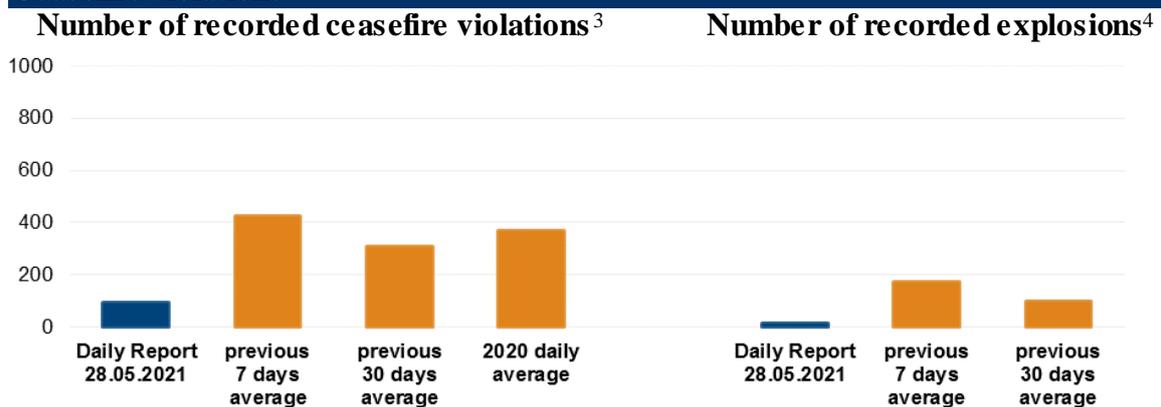
Daily Report 122/2021

28 May 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 91 ceasefire violations, including 14 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 63 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 347 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM saw damage to civilian properties in Pivnichne, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and recorded a ceasefire violation inside the latter area.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the 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. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 27 May 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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

³ Including explosions.

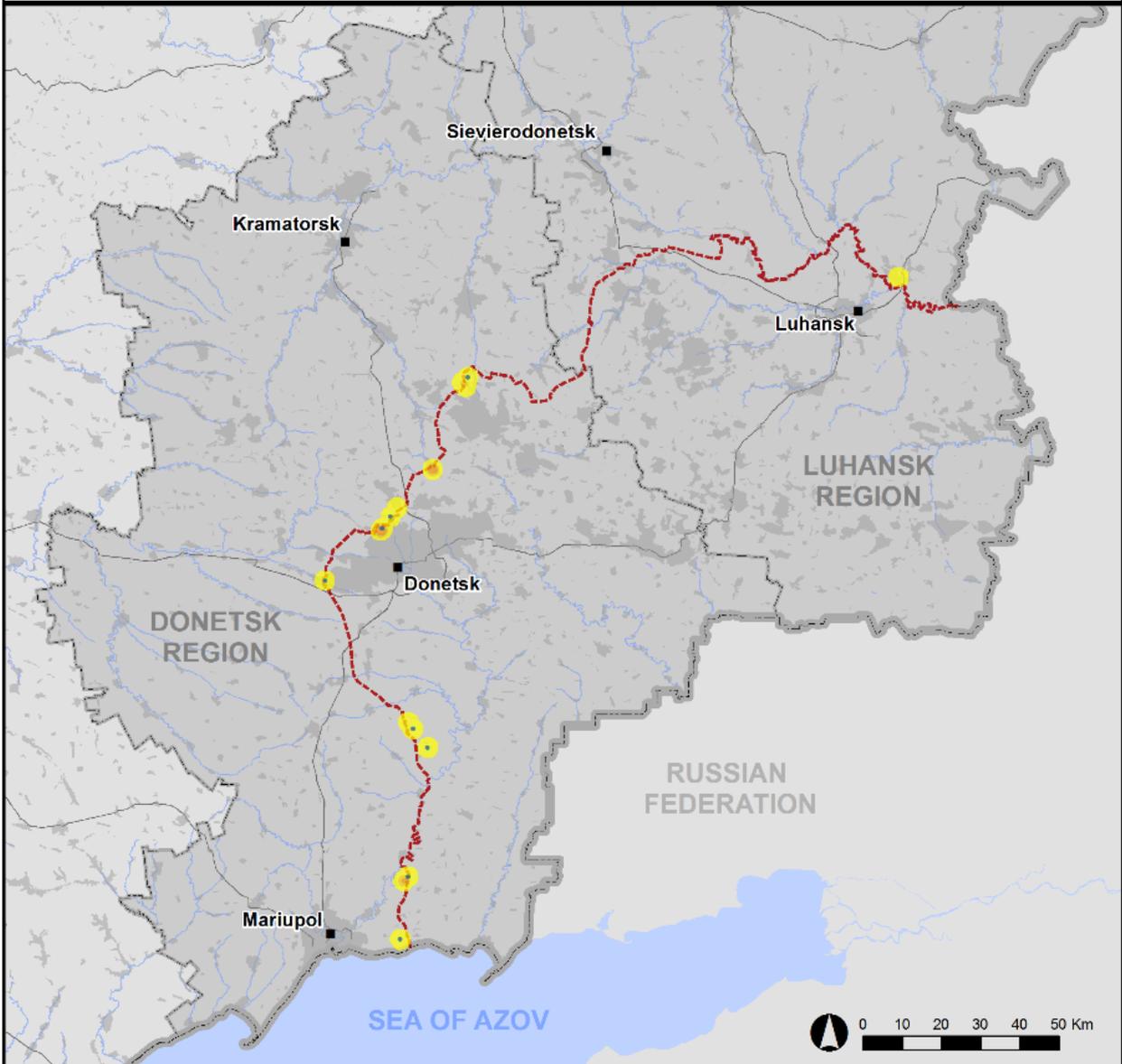
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

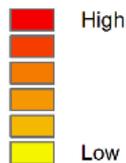


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 27 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: 28/05/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 91 ceasefire violations, including undetermined 14 explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area south of the destroyed Donetsk international airport (8km north-west of Donetsk) and in an area north-west of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 63 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations in an area north of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 347 ceasefire violations in the region.

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 31,969 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 10,350 explosions, 5,182 projectiles in flight, 227 muzzle flashes, 107 illumination flares and at least 16,103 bursts and shots).

Civilian properties damaged due to shelling in Pivnichne, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of damage to civilian properties in Pivnichne (formerly Kirove, government-controlled, 44km north-east of Donetsk).

On the eastern edge of Yunosti Street, about 10m east of the junction with Kvitkova Street, the Mission observed a crater (about 60cm in diameter). It assessed it as fresh and caused by a probable anti-tank guided missile fired from an easterly direction.

About 10m north of the crater, at 16 Kvitkova Street, the SMM saw that asbestos panels of a fence, located 10m south of a one-storey inhabited house, were broken. It assessed the damage as fresh and caused by an explosion. A woman (in her sixties), who introduced herself as the owner of the house, told the Mission that her property, as well as the ones at 14 and 18 Kvitkova Street, had been damaged. About 10m south of the crater, at 14 Kvitkova Street, the SMM observed that asbestos panels of a fence, located about 4m north of a one-storey inhabited house, had been recently replaced.

About 350m north-north-west of the aforementioned crater, in a garage area near Pavlova Street, the SMM observed another fresh impact crater in the ground covered with gravel, as well as, just north of the crater, multiple holes and dents assessed as caused by shrapnel in the south-facing wall of a garage and dents in the garage's metal gate. The SMM saw that the metal gate had been freshly painted over after the damage occurred. The Mission could not determine the type of weapon or the direction of fire.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On the night of 26-27 May, while on the eastern edge of Stanytsia Luhanska, the SMM heard two shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 0.7-2km south-west, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**, but within 5km of its periphery.

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

While positioned inside the area, the Mission 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, accompanied by an ambulance with two medical staff (two men in their forties and fifties) in medical protective gear. The SMM again saw the eight previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

An SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area.*

On 25 May, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), 150m west-south-west of its north-eastern corner, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time four anti-personnel mines (PMN-2) (not seen in imagery from 21 December 2020). Also inside the area, along its southern edge and near its south-eastern corner, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 30 anti-tank mines. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 27 May 2021](#).)

During the day on 27 May, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission heard a shot of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km south-south-west, assessed as inside the disengagement area. While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, it heard five undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 3-6km south, assessed as outside the disengagement area, 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.

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

The SMM saw 20 armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in residential areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Petrivske and Berezove, Donetsk region

On 25 May, in a field about 1.5km south-south-east of Petrivske, an SMM mini-UAV spotted 24 anti-tank mines for the first time (not seen in imagery from 24 December 2020). In a field about 900m north of Petrivske and east of the road between Petrivske and Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk), the same UAV spotted six anti-tank mines for the first time (assessed as not recently laid). At the latter location, the same UAV again

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

spotted an anti-tank mine with its carrying strap attached. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 19 June 2020](#).)

On the same day, in a field about 700m north of Petrivske and east of the road between Petrivske and Styła, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 30 anti-tank mines. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 21 April 2021](#).) Also, in a field about 1km north of Petrivske, the same UAV again spotted three anti-tank mines and four mine hazard signs (one of them upright and three lying on the ground). (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 8 May 2020](#)).

All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 26 May, about 3.5km south-east of Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted five anti-tank mines laid across road T-0509, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 2 June 2020](#)).

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 on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard two bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable repairs to water and sewage infrastructure near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east 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 queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission 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.

***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, [SMM Daily Report of 25 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.

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

- Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 30km north-east of Donetsk).
- Two SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk).
- Two SMM mid-range UAV flights were cancelled due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, near Mykhailivka and Lebiazhe.
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Pivnichne (formerly Kirove, government-controlled, 44km north-east of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km 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.

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
26/5/2021	6	Infantry fighting vehicle (five BMP variants and one type undetermined)	Near Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)		
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (one BMP-1 and one probable BMP-2)	In a residential area of Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	
	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB variant)		
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)		
27/5/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Kodema (57km north-east of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area of Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

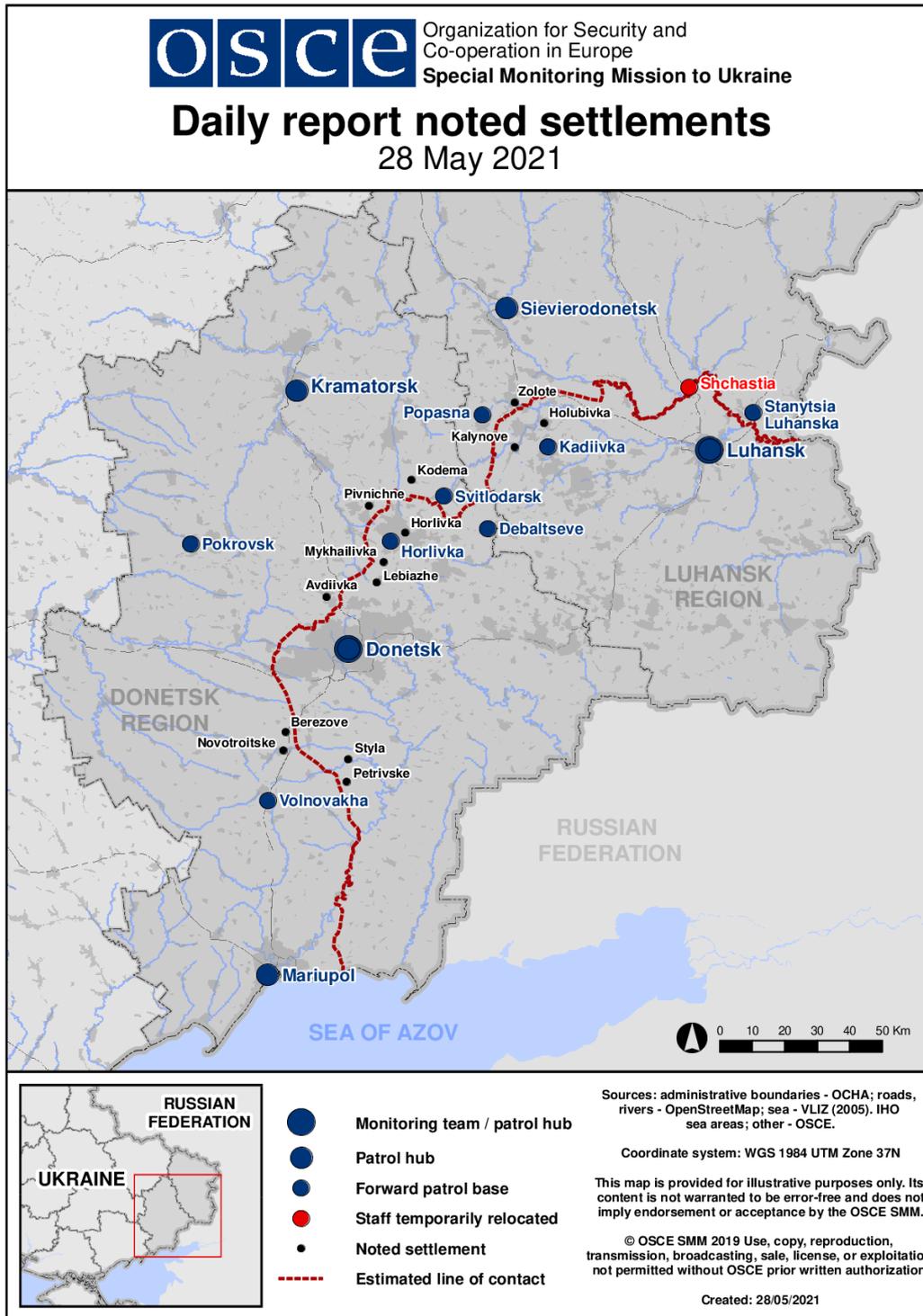
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 27 May 2021⁹

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 E	Recorded	4	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	26-May, 22:35
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 01:16
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 10:10
	4km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:06
About 800m ENE of Zhabunko (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	1-2km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:05
	1km NNW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 11:25
	1km NNW	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	27-May, 11:25
	1km NNW	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 11:28
	1km NNW	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 11:34
	1km NNW	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 11:53
	1km NNW	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 11:58
About 2km W of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	2-3.5km NW	Heard	22	Burst		Small arms	27-May, 12:11-12:12
Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 12:27
	1-2km NE	Heard	6	Shot		Small arms	27-May, 12:28
W edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Heard	1	Shot	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	Small arms	27-May, 11:00
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	8-12km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 12:22
	3-6km S	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	27-May, 13:45-14:00
Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km S of Donetsk)	5-6km E	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	27-May, 11:18
Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	3-4km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 11:50
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-May, 12:35
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	0.7-2km SW	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	27-May, 00:00-00:01

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰



¹⁰ The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff have temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States, as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).