

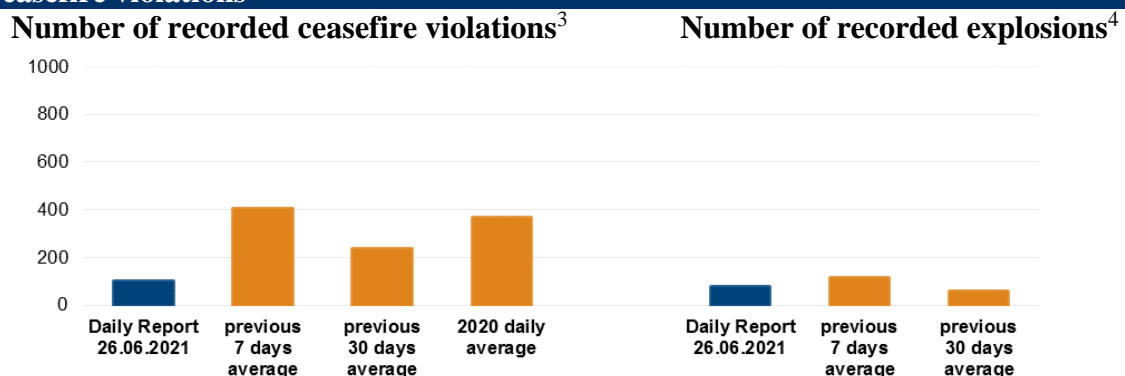
Daily Report 147/2021

26 June 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 83 ceasefire violations, including 59 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 363 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 17 ceasefire violations, all explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 1,491 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It again recorded ceasefire violations close to the disengagement area near Zolote and inside and close to the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and maintenance to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM followed up on reports of an attack on a journalist in Ivano-Frankivsk.
- The SMM monitored a gathering in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at five checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) again experienced multiple instances of GPS signal interference and a long-range UAV flight was cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, near its base in Stepanivka *

Ceasefire violations²



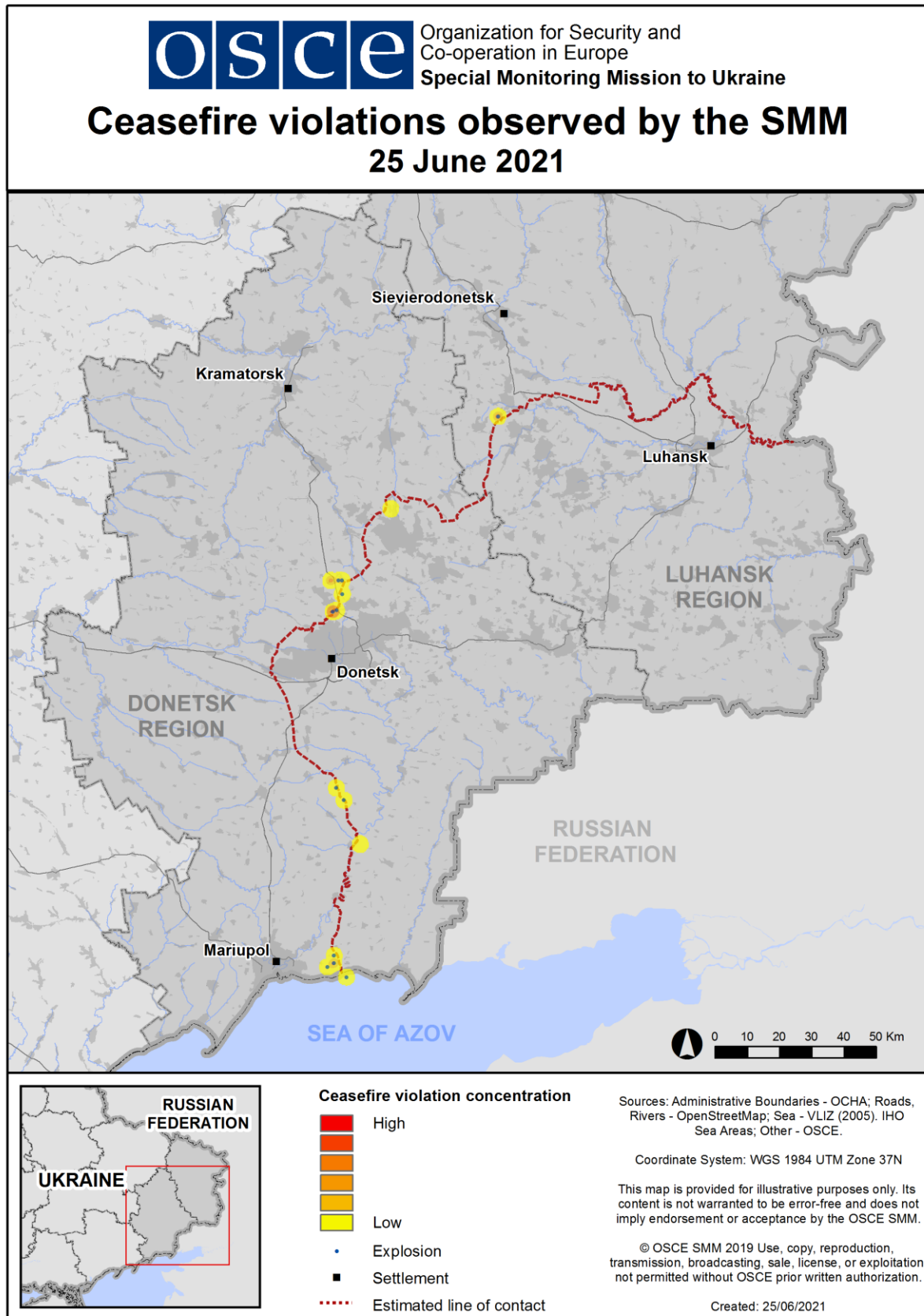
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 25 June 2021. All times are in Eastern European Summer Time.

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



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 83 ceasefire violations, including 59 explosions (one outgoing, four airbursts, 25 undetermined explosions and 29 impacts). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in an area south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north-east of Donetsk) and in areas east of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 24km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 363 ceasefire violations, some of which were also recorded near Avdiivka.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 17 ceasefire violations, all undetermined explosions, in an area west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 1,491 ceasefire violations, the majority of which were also recorded near the aforementioned disengagement area.

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 38,698 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 12,028 explosions, 6,255 projectiles in flight, 235 muzzle flashes, 124 illumination flares and at least 20,056 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), 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).

On the evening of 24 June, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard 17 undetermined explosions, all at an assessed range of 5-7km east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge and inside the area.

During the day on 25 June, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission heard one outgoing explosion at an assessed range of 2-3km south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk). While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission heard one undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 6-8km south, assessed as outside the 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.

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

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw a surface-to-air missile system in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Indication of military and military-type presence in the security zone

The SMM saw an anti-aircraft gun and six armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and two armoured combat vehicles in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including in a compound. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of anti-tank mines near Betmanove in Donetsk region

On 24 June, near a residential area on the north-western outskirts of Betmanove (formerly Krasnyi Partyzan, non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted four anti-tank mines laid across a road leading to Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 11 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 at two locations near the station, the SMM heard two undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. The Mission also monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

The SMM monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance to the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km north-east of Donetsk) and to power lines in Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, while at the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska at 9:00 a.m., the Mission saw 120 people (72 women and 48 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 750 people (450 women and 300 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. While at the EECP at 11:15 a.m., it saw 250 people (150 women and 100 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 1,150 people (575 women and 575 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction. While at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge at 10:10 a.m., the SMM observed 50 people (25 women and 25 men, mixed ages) queuing to travel towards government-controlled areas and 200 (120 women and 80 men, mixed ages) queuing in the opposite direction.

The SMM also noted that the EECs 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.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point⁶ near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about sixty minutes, the SMM observed 23 cars (including 19 with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), three buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 112 people (54 men, 52 women and six children, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it observed ten cars (including five with “DPR” plates), eight covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 57 people (31 men, 22 women and four children, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM did not observe any people or vehicles entering or exiting Ukraine.

The SMM followed up on reports of an attack on a journalist in Ivano-Frankivsk

On 25 June, the SMM followed up on reports of an attack on a journalist (man, in his fifties) at the main railway station in Ivano-Frankivsk.

On 25 June, the journalist told the SMM by video call that on the afternoon of 24 June, when he had boarded a train to Ivano-Frankivsk in Kyiv with his mother, a man (age unknown) threatened him by saying “somebody will meet you in Ivano-Frankivsk”. He said that when the train arrived in Ivano-Frankivsk at about midnight, the aforementioned man had pushed him out of the train onto the platform and a group of about ten men (ages unknown) had thrown green dye and eggs at him. He added that afterwards he had gone to a hospital to seek medical assistance. During the call, the SMM saw that the journalist had green marks on his face and head.

On the same day, a police representative (a man in his fifties) in Ivano-Frankivsk told the SMM that an investigation had been initiated under Article 296, part 2 (Hooliganism) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, after the journalist had reported that a group of about ten men wearing face coverings had thrown green dye and eggs at him at the railway station in Ivano-Frankivsk on the night of 24-25 June.

The SMM monitored a gathering in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region

On 25 June in front of the city hall in Kryvyi Rih (133km south-west of Dnipro), the SMM monitored a peaceful gathering of about 100 people (mixed gender and ages) expressing opinions in support of a more inclusive representation of families of persons missing as a consequence of the conflict in a special commission established under the July 2018 Law “On the Legal Status of Missing Persons” dealing with such missing persons.

⁶ 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.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Lviv, Odessa, Kharkiv, 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 the [SMM Daily Report of 22 June 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 on the southern edge of Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations, one of whom visibly armed, denied the Mission passage westwards, citing “the SMM's safety”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations on the eastern edge of Nova Marivka, two members of the armed formations, one of whom visibly armed, denied the SMM passage towards the settlement, citing “the need to get approval from their superiors”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), one visibly armed member of the armed formations twice denied the Mission passage towards the settlement, citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westwards towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk) and southwards towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), citing “the SMM's safety” and “kinetic activities in the area”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), one visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage westwards towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), citing “the patrol's need to coordinate passage with his superiors”.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:⁷

- On 24 June, an SMM long-range UAV flight was cancelled due to dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, near its base in Stepanivka (government-controlled, 54km north of Donetsk).
- On 25 June, six SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four flights over areas near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), three flights over areas near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), two flights over areas near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), two flights over areas near Zelene (non-government-controlled, 46km south-east of Donetsk) and during one flight over areas near Novotoshkivske (government-controlled, 53km west of Luhansk).
- On the same day, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lohvynove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk).

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interferences could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
24/6/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
24/6/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Hranitne (60km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Starohnativka (51km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
25/6/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Stepove (27km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
24/6/2021	1	Trench digger (MDK-3)	Near Stepove (27km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in Zymohiria (27km west of Luhansk)	

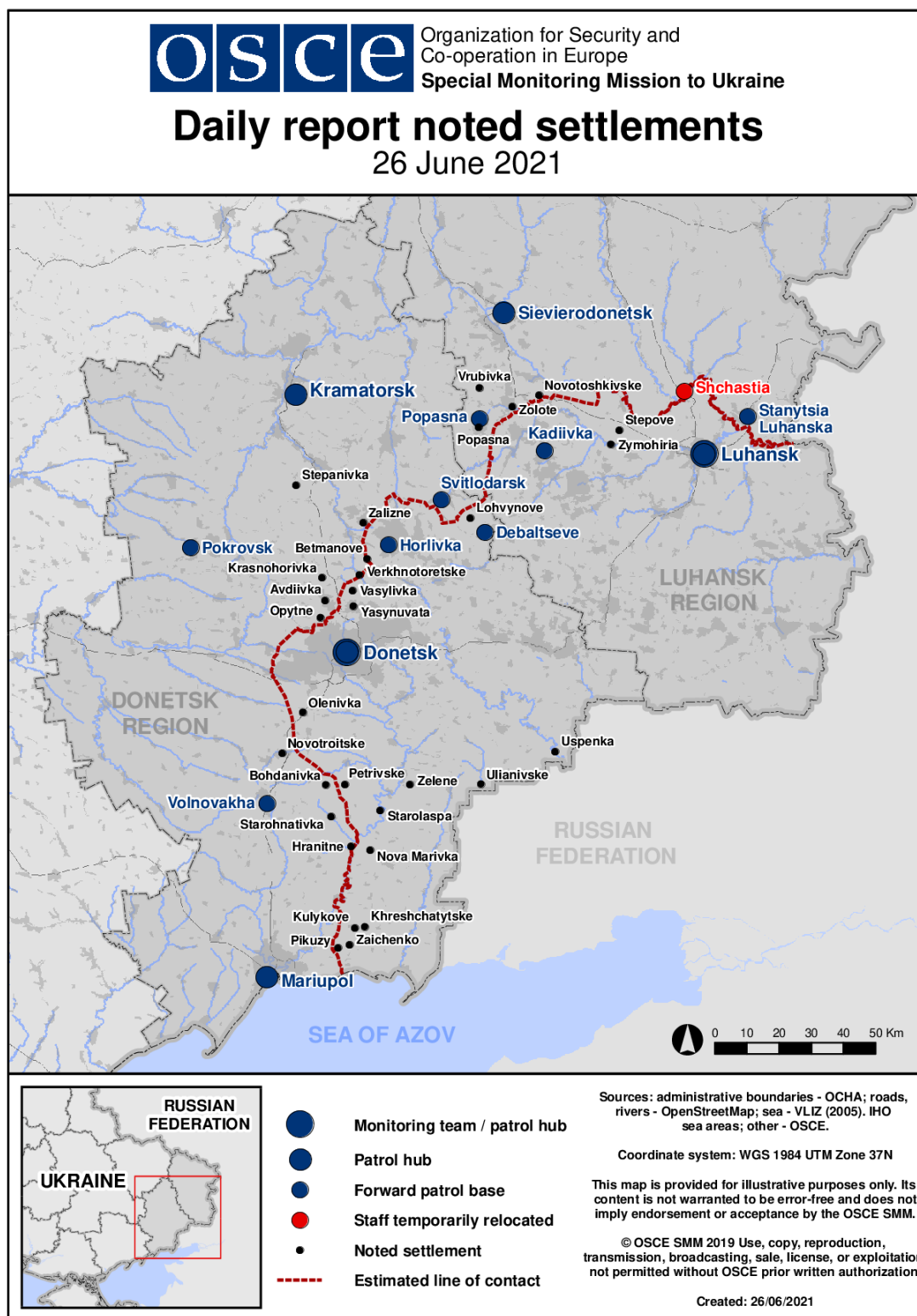
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 25 June 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	21	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	25-Jun, 02:10
	2-4km SE	Recorded	21	Explosion	Impact, Subsequent to previous event	N/K	25-Jun, 02:10
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 02:10
	2-4km SE	Recorded	7	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	25-Jun, 02:11
	2-4km SE	Recorded	7	Explosion	Impact, Subsequent to previous event	N/K	25-Jun, 02:11
	2-4km SE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	25-Jun, 02:11
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	25-Jun, 02:20
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	25-Jun, 02:55
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Jun, 21:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	24-Jun, 21:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Jun, 21:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	24-Jun, 21:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare		N/K	24-Jun, 21:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	25-Jun, 00:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	25-Jun, 00:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, Subsequent to previous event	N/K	25-Jun, 00:45
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 08:57
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 11:28
About 1.5km SSE of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 24km N of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	25-Jun, 11:56-11:57
	2-3km E	Heard	10	Burst		Small arms	25-Jun, 12:03
	4-6km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 12:03
	5-7km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 12:10
	5-7km E	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 12:17-12:18
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	6-8km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	25-Jun, 11:05
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as inside disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	25-Jun, 12:10
About 2.5km SSE of Lomakyne (government-controlled, 93km S of Donetsk)	5km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 09:50-09:55
	5-6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 12:24
	5-6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 12:46
Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	5-6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Jun, 13:20
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Heard	17	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	24-Jun, 19:15-20:15

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).