

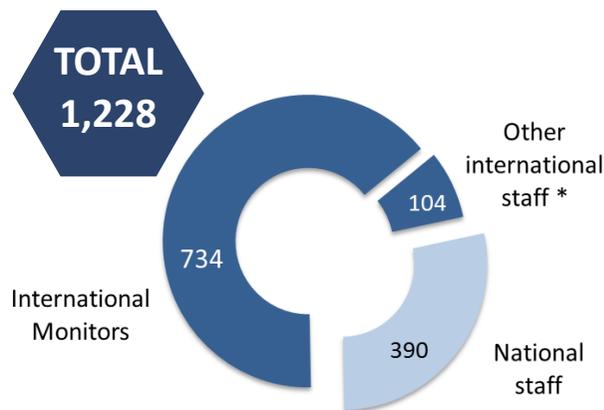


OSCE SMM monitoring officers launching a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in non-government-controlled Betmanove in Donetsk region, February 2018. Photo: OSCE/ Evgeniy Maloletka

FACTS MATTER

- Between 22 January and 4 February, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remained tense. In terms of the overall number of ceasefire violations recorded by the OSCE SMM along the contact line, little changed between 19 February and 4 March 2018 compared with the previous two-week reporting period.
- The Mission did, however, observe localized upsurges in violence, in particular in the Popasna-Pervomaisk area of western Luhansk region. In the first week of the reporting period, almost 90 percent of all explosions caused by weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements were recorded in this area. The following week, the majority of such explosions were recorded in areas south and south-east of Svitlodarsk, a change possibly due to the fact that the Mission's night-time monitoring capacity in and around Popasna was compromised during this time.
- On 23 February, the SMM from its forward patrol base near Popasna heard ten explosions assessed as outgoing 120mm mortar rounds, thereby temporarily relocating its monitors from the base, which has remained unstaffed since then. Read the Spot report: www.osce.org/special-monitoring-mission-to-ukraine/373627
- Armed men in areas close to the border with the Russian Federation in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region repeatedly denied access to four specific locations. One of them, near Voznesenivka, has been unreachable for the Mission since 15 February, while another town in southern Donetsk region – Siedove – has been similarly closed off by armed men since April 2017. Furthermore, since the beginning of the year, SMM unmanned aerial vehicles have been targeted by small-arms fire on ten occasions, including two times during the reporting period. In one incident on 26 February, prior to the unmanned aerial vehicle coming under fire, the camera on board recorded the presence of four self-propelled howitzers in violation of the withdrawal lines in non-government-controlled Sarabash in Donetsk region.
- On 28 February the sides recommitted to the ceasefire as of 00:01 on 5 March. The Mission, where it has safe unfettered access, will report on the level of compliance, with its findings reflected in SMM daily reports, available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports

MISSION MEMBERS as of 7 MARCH 2018



* Other international staff includes Chief Monitor, Principal Deputy Chief Monitor, Deputy Chief Monitor, advisors, analysts, etc.

MISSION MONITORS

Albania	5	Kazakhstan	4
Armenia	1	Kyrgyzstan	22
Austria	13	Latvia	8
Azerbaijan	1	Lithuania	3
Belarus	7	Moldova	29
Belgium	1	Montenegro	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	42	Netherlands	3
Bulgaria	33	Norway	13
Canada	27	Poland	37
Croatia	10	Portugal	3
Czech Republic	17	Romania	29
Denmark	10	Russian Federation	40
Estonia	5	Serbia	11
Finland	19	Slovakia	12
France	16	Slovenia	1
FYR of Macedonia	25	Spain	14
Georgia	12	Sweden	13
Germany	25	Switzerland	8
Greece	22	Tajikistan	8
Hungary	27	Turkey	8
Ireland	7	UK	57
Italy	20	USA	63
		TOTAL	734
Male	613	Female	121

SPECIAL MONITORING MISSION TO UKRAINE

Who we are?

- Unarmed civilian monitors
- Over 700 monitors across Ukraine
- Almost 600 based in the east
- From 44 OSCE participating States

What we do?

- Report the facts as we observe and establish them
- Gather information and report on the security situation
- Report on the humanitarian situation and people's needs, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid of other organizations
- Help to establish dialogue and local ceasefires

Important to understand:

- It is up to the sides to stop the fighting
- We do not conduct investigations, but report on facts
- We do not deliver but facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid