As of 22 March 2021

STATUS

Facts Matter

- Between 8 and 21 March 2021, the SMM recorded 1,260 ceasefire violations, compared with 944 in the previous two-week period.
- The SMM continued to monitor the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, observing people in the latter two areas and recording one ceasefire violation inside the one near Petrivske.
- During the two-week reporting period, the SMM corroborated three civilian casualties, including two fatalities. This brings the total number of civilian casualties that occurred since the beginning of 2021 to four (two fatalities and two injuries).
- The Mission observed trench extensions on both sides of the contact line.
- The Mission continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to and maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line, including to enable emergency repairs to a power substation in Oleksandrivka (benefiting around 4,500 civilians) and to complete repairs to power lines near Novoluhanske and Dolomine (benefitting about 3,700 civilians).
- The SMM continued to observe civilians facing challenges when crossing, or attempting to cross, the contact line. It again noted that the only crossing points civilians were able to use were near Stanytsia Luhanska (operational daily) and Novotroitske/Olenivka (twice a week as the armed formations’ checkpoint there is only operational on Mondays and Fridays).
- The Mission’s freedom of movement on the ground was restricted six times, all in non-government-controlled areas (see Spot Report 3/2021). SMM unmanned aerial vehicles were targeted four times by small-arms fire, twice in government-controlled and twice in non-government-controlled areas; and experienced signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming on 30 occasions while flying on both sides of the contact line.
- The SMM’s daily reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.

Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Who we are

- Unarmed civilian monitors;
- Around 730 monitors across Ukraine;
- Around 550 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.