On 21 April, during the second round of the presidential election, the SMM observed a calm security situation in Kyiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia, Kharkiv, Doniproptrovsk, Vinnytsia, and Chernivtsi regions, as well as in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including at entry-exit checkpoints.

The Mission continued to face restrictions on its freedom of movement and other impediments to fulfilment of its Mandate. In addition to mines and unexploded ordnance, members of the armed formations restricted the SMM’s freedom of movement on 46 occasions and the Ukrainian Armed Forces six times.

Targeting of SMM unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) has continued. Small-arms fire was directed towards SMM UAVs on five occasions. One mini-UAV was hit by a bullet. Almost on a daily basis, SMM UAVs were subjected to signal interference (assessed as jamming). A long-range UAV was lost on 19 April close to the contact line in Donetsk region. It is the third such aircraft to be lost in six months.

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The SMM’s daily reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: https://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.

Facts Matter

- Between 8 and 21 April, the SMM confirmed that two civilians were killed and nine were injured. This brings the total number of civilian casualties since 1 January 2019 to 31 (five deaths and 26 injuries).
- The SMM recorded over 13,000 ceasefire violations (about 14,700 in the previous two-week period) and observed 270 weapons in violation of the agreed withdrawal lines (218 in areas not controlled by the Government).
- The situation in and close to the Zolote disengagement area remained volatile, with the Mission observing fresh impacts near residential buildings – with an 11-year old girl receiving injuries in one instance – and damage to a functioning school. Pupils and staff had to take cover in the school’s shelter on one occasion when shelling occurred as clashes were underway. The Mission also observed mines, personnel, positions and hardwares inside the disengagement area.
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