

# Daily Report 63/2021

18 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

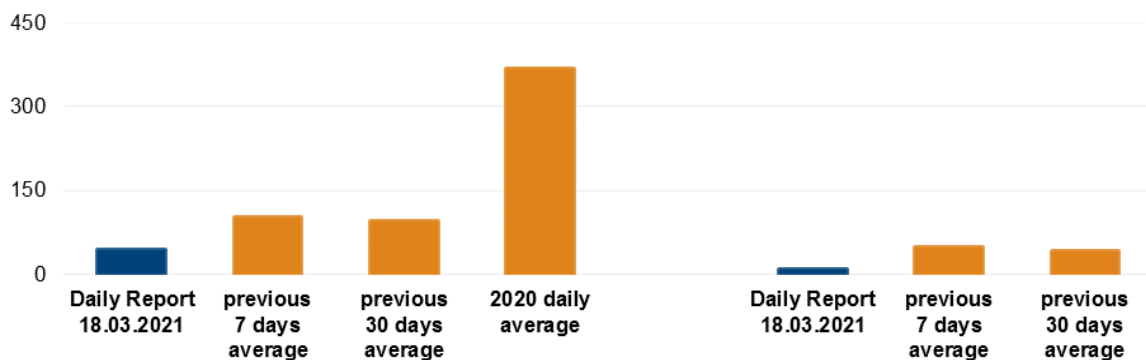
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 44 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 30 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it also recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission followed up on reports of a man who died due to small-arms fire near government-controlled Bohdanivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. An SMM unmanned aerial vehicle spotted a person inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The Mission observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.
- In the past weeks, the SMM spotted extensions to existing trenches on both sides of the contact line, near and on the territory of the destroyed Donetsk international airport.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 March 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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

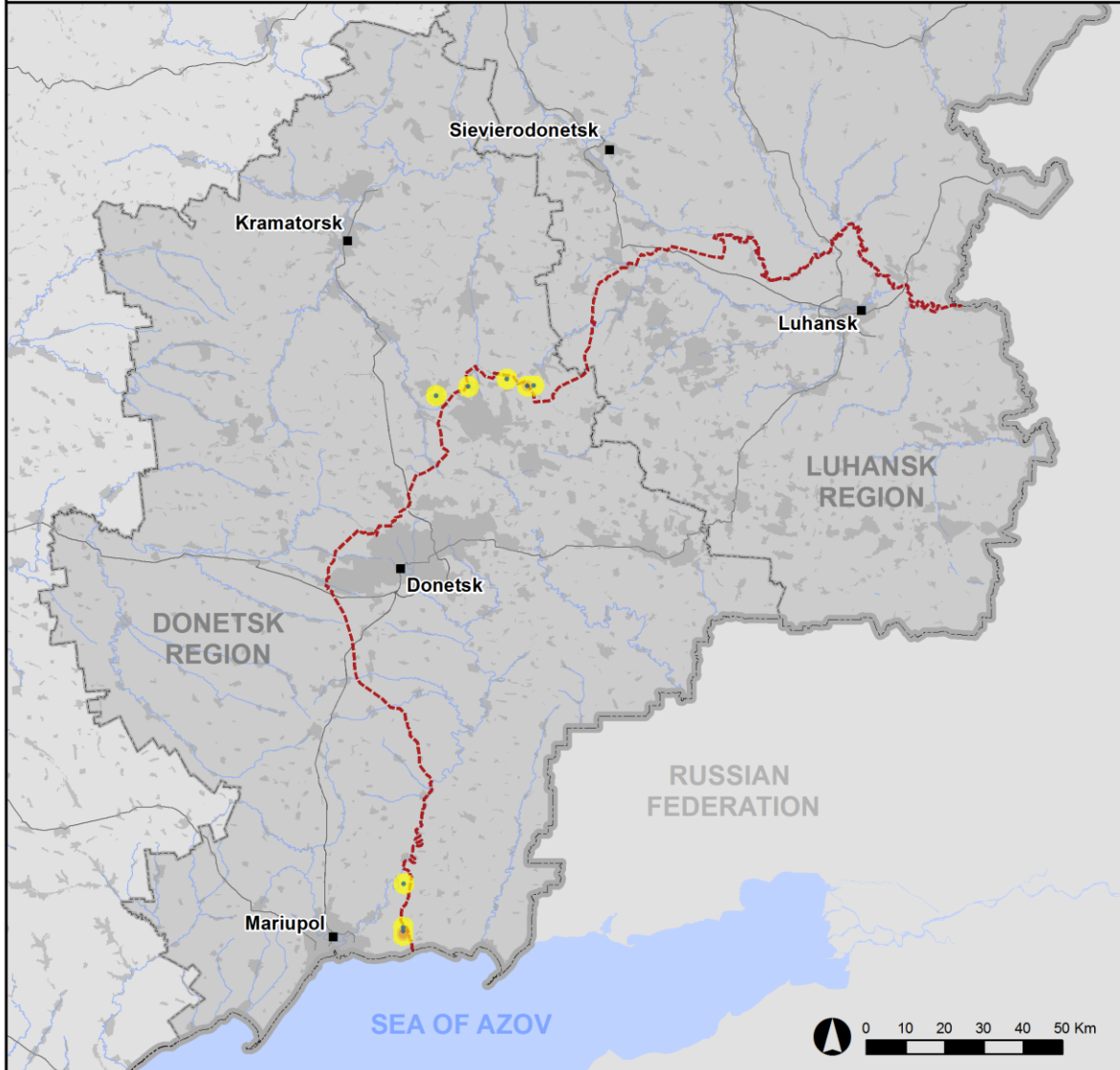
<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

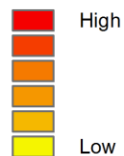
### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 March 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 18/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 44 ceasefire violations, including ten undetermined explosions, most of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and at southerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 30 ceasefire violations, about half of which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM also recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the Mission recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on 15 March (see [SMM Daily Report 16 March 2021](#)).

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 so far recorded at least 12,497 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,488 explosions, 1,498 projectiles in flight, 146 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,302 bursts and shots).

### **Man died due to small-arms fire near government-controlled Bohdanivka, Donetsk region**

The Mission followed up on reports of a man who died due to small-arms fire on 8 February near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk).

On 8 February, while positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka, the Mission observed a man (age unknown) on a stretcher being carried into an ambulance, which subsequently departed in the direction of Bohdanivka. An officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) told the SMM that earlier on the same day, warning shots and then further shots had been fired when a civilian car had entered a forbidden area. (See [SMM Daily Report 9 February 2021](#).)

On 9 February, medical staff at a hospital in Volnovakha (government-controlled, 53km south of Donetsk) told the SMM over the phone that on 8 February, the body of a man (in his late sixties) had been brought to the hospital with wounds consistent with small-arms fire.

On 11 February, in Bohdanivka, a paramedic (woman in her forties) told the SMM that on the morning of 8 February she had arrived at a location east of Bohdanivka and had provided medical assistance to a man who had a wound to his back, consistent with small-arms fire. On the same day, also in Bohdanivka, a doctor (man in his forties) told the Mission that the man had been transported to a hospital in Volnovakha and had died on his way to the hospital.

On 12 February, in Volnovakha, a man (in his forties) who introduced himself as the man's son told the SMM that on 8 February, his father, who had been working as a taxi driver, had died from wounds due to small-arms fire.

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

On 15 March, about 150m north of the northern edge of the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), an SMM long-

---

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

range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two armoured combat vehicles (one BTR-variant and one type undetermined) in a residential area.

On 17 March, while positioned inside the disengagement area, the SMM observed a calm situation.

During the day on 15 March, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations near its eastern edge, about 1.4km north of its south-eastern corner.

On 17 March, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission again saw five containers inside a fenced perimeter south of its southern edge, on the southern edge of the road leading eastwards towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The Mission also again saw another container on the area's southern edge.

Inside the area, it again saw a container about 60–70m north of the other five and another about 350m north of the area's southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316. About 60m north of the area's southern edge, the Mission saw for the first time an aluminium barrier (composed of a metal part fixed on the western edge of the road and a pole) assessed as to be used to regulate traffic.

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), all of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. The Mission also saw a car with a driver (man, in his fifties) and two passengers (women, ages unknown) in protective medical gear and an ambulance with one driver (man, age unknown) enter the disengagement area, drive north and then return.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a visibly armed man (in his twenties) walking towards Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and two cars driving southwards from the direction of Styla, each carrying three men (all in their forties and fifties). While positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, about 250m east-south-east of the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, the SMM saw a man (in his fifties) walking from the direction of Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk) towards Petrivske and a person (unknown gender and age) walking in a southerly direction about 400m west-north-west of the disengagement area's north-eastern corner. All the above-mentioned people, except for the latter, were wearing military-style clothing.

In a field about 350m east-north-east of the disengagement area's north-western corner, about 3m north of road C-050563, the SMM saw for the first time at least ten anti-tank mines grouped underneath camouflage netting, with barbed wire surrounding them, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, near a previously observed mine hazard sign. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report 17 February 2021](#).)

## **Withdrawal of weapons**

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM observed a surface-to-air missile system near residential houses in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and six multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM observed 54 tanks in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including near a residential area, as well as five towed howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

## **Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

In past weeks, the SMM continued to spot extensions to existing trenches on both sides of the contact line, in areas between government-controlled Pisky (11km north-west of Donetsk) and Opytne (12km north-west of Donetsk) and non-government-controlled Vesele (9km north-west of Donetsk), near and on the territory of the destroyed Donetsk international airport (8km north-west of Donetsk). All these trench extensions were assessed as built between 23 August 2020 and 24 December 2020.

On 5 December 2020, an SMM long-range UAV spotted four trench extensions located at distances between 400m and 4.5km north-east of Pisky, all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. One of these extensions – 120m-long – was spotted in a field about 4.5km north-east of Pisky (not seen in imagery from 25 October 2020) and was assessed as a forward movement towards the contact line, reducing the distance between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the armed formations to about 60m. Also, in fields about 3km and 1.5km north-east of Pisky, the same UAV spotted another two trench extensions, 120m- and 30m-long, respectively (not seen in imagery from 22 October 2020) and, in a field about 400m north-east of Pisky, an 80m-long trench extension (not seen in imagery from 23 August 2020), which were all assessed as consolidations of existing trenches.

On 5 December 2020 and 5 January 2021, in a field about 1.6km south-south-west of Opytne, SMM long-range UAVs spotted a 60m- and a 20m-long trench extension (not seen in imagery from 23 August and from 5 December 2020, respectively) to the same trench, both assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and as forward movements towards the contact line.

On 24 December 2020, an SMM long-range UAV spotted a 90m-long trench extension (not seen in imagery from 23 August 2020) in a field about 1.2km north-east of Pisky, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and as a forward move towards the contact line, reducing the distance between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the armed formations to about 280m.

On 24 December 2020 and 21 January 2021, in a field about 1.1km north-north-west of Vesele, SMM long-range UAVs spotted a 50m- and a 5m-long trench extension (not seen in imagery

---

<sup>6</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons. The SMM noted that one such site continued to be abandoned.

from 28 October and from 24 December 2020, respectively) to the same trench running north to one of the taxiways of the destroyed Donetsk international airport, assessed as belonging to the armed formations, both assessed as forward movements towards the contact line, reducing the distance between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the armed formations to about 1.2km.

The Mission previously published a summary of its observations in this area in November 2020 (see [SMM Daily Report 21 November 2020](#)).

The SMM also saw armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near residential houses. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Anti-tank mines near Zoloti Pisky, Lozove, Lohvynove, Krasnohorivka and Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region and Donetsk and Sokilnyky, Luhansk region**

On 14 March, about 2.8km south-west of Zoloti Pisky (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted for the first time 23 anti-tank mines laid (unable to assess if recently laid) across both lanes of a highway leading to Lozove (non-government-controlled, 13km west of Donetsk). On the same highway, about 500m further south, the same UAV again spotted about 29 anti-tank mines. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On the same highway, about 4km north of Lozove, the same UAV also again spotted at least 22 anti-tank mines laid across its eastern lane, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 17 August 2020](#)).

On 15 March, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted 20 anti-tank mines laid across a local road about 1.2km west-north-west of Donetsk (non-government-controlled, 49km west of Luhansk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 2 March 2021](#)).

On the same day, an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 85 anti-tank mines in a field east of road M-93 about 2km north-west of Lohvynove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 7 August 2020](#)). About 700m further north-west, in a field east of the same road, the SMM again spotted 53 anti-tank mines (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 20 January 2020](#)). All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

Also on the same day, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about 20 mines laid across a road leading from Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) to Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 18 January 2021](#)). The same UAV also again spotted 24 anti-tank mines laid across the same road on the western edge of Staromykhailivka, and 20 anti-tank mines in a field south of the same road, all assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [12 May 2020](#) and [23 May 2020](#)).

On 16 March, an SMM mini-UAV again spotted six anti-tank mines laid across a local road about 1.5km east of Sokilnyky (non-government-controlled, 38km north-west of Luhansk),

assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the areas, see [SMM Daily Report of 13 August 2020](#)).

### **SMM facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), as well as maintenance to power lines near Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk) and in a government-controlled area of Dolomitne (53km north-east of Donetsk). While positioned near Novoluhanske, the Mission heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed distance of 2-3km west-south-west of its position.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open but did not observe any people passing through, and 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 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 [SMM Daily Report of 16 March 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:<sup>7</sup>

- On 15 March, an SMM long-range UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km south-west of Donetsk) and over areas between Zelene (non-government-controlled, 46km south-east of Donetsk) and Tarany (non-government-controlled, 74km east of Donetsk), as well as dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Dokuchaievsk and Zelene.
- On 17 March, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk).

---

<sup>7</sup> For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.



## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
16/03/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	In a residential area of Ozarianivka (formerly Pershe Travnia, 52km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
17/03/2021	6	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
15/03/2021	4	Tank (T-72)	Near a residential area of Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
17/03/2021	20	Tank (T-72)	At a compound in a residential area of Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	30	Tank (T-64)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
17/03/2021	5	Towed howitzer (2A65 <i>Msta-B</i> , 152mm)	Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	

### Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
15/03/2021	2	Armoured combat vehicle	Near a residential area in Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Armoured combat vehicle (two probable BMP-2 and one type undetermined)	Near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)		
	2	Armoured combat vehicle (one BTR-variant and one undetermined)	In a residential area of Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (probable BTR-60)	Near Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)	Near Vozdvyzhenka (formerly Krasnyi Pakhar, 66km north-east of Donetsk)	
16/03/2021	2	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Vozdvyzhenka (formerly Krasnyi Pakhar, 66km north-east of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured combat vehicle	In a compound near Krymske (42km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
1	Combat engineer vehicle (IMR-2)	Near Orikhove-Donetske (44km north-west of Luhansk)		

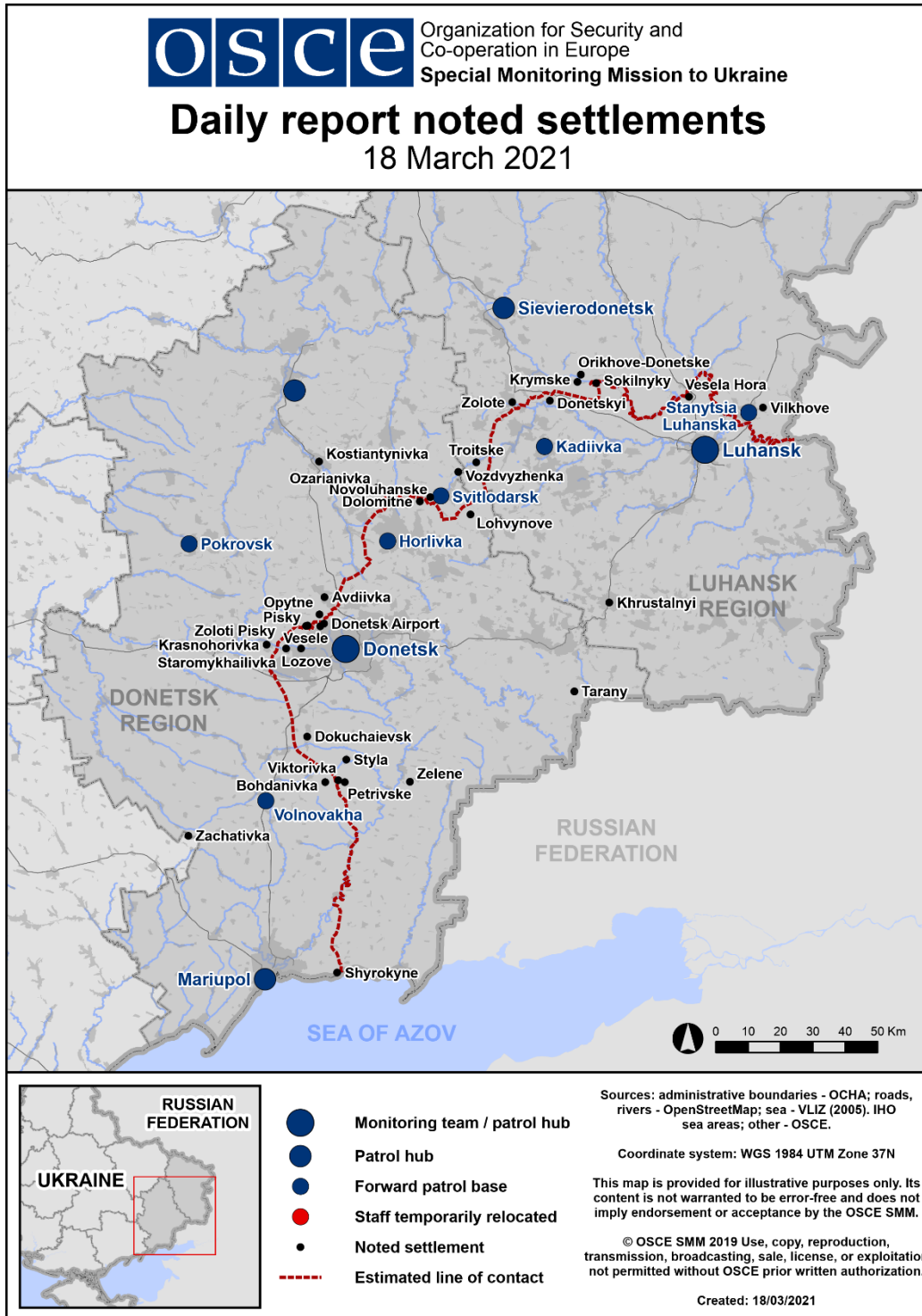
<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 17 March 2021<sup>9</sup>**

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	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 21:44
	1-3km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	N to S	N/K	16-Mar, 21:56
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	6-8km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Mar, 19:15
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 18:25
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 18:25
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	17-Mar, 18:25
	4-6km N	Recorded	16	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 18:34
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 18:36
	5-7km N	Recorded	3	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 18:37
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	2km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 11:38
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 12:44
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard and saw	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	17-Mar, 12:04
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 16:43-16:45
	4-5km SSW	Heard	11	Burst		HMG	17-Mar, 16:43
	4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 16:58

<sup>9</sup> 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 regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).