

# Daily Report 64/2021

19 March 2021<sup>1</sup>

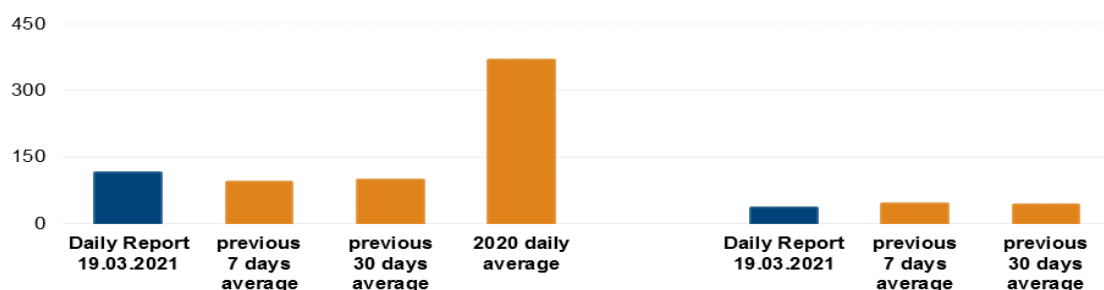
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 113 ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 44 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations for the third consecutive day.
- The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded one burst of heavy-machine-gun fire inside the area near Petrivske.
- The Mission observed five weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.
- The SMM saw anti-tank mines, some for the first time, near Lohvynove, Zaitseve and Pyshchevyk, Donetsk region.
- 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 SMM'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, 18 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 cameras in Petrivske and Zolote were not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras between the evening of 17 and 18 March.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

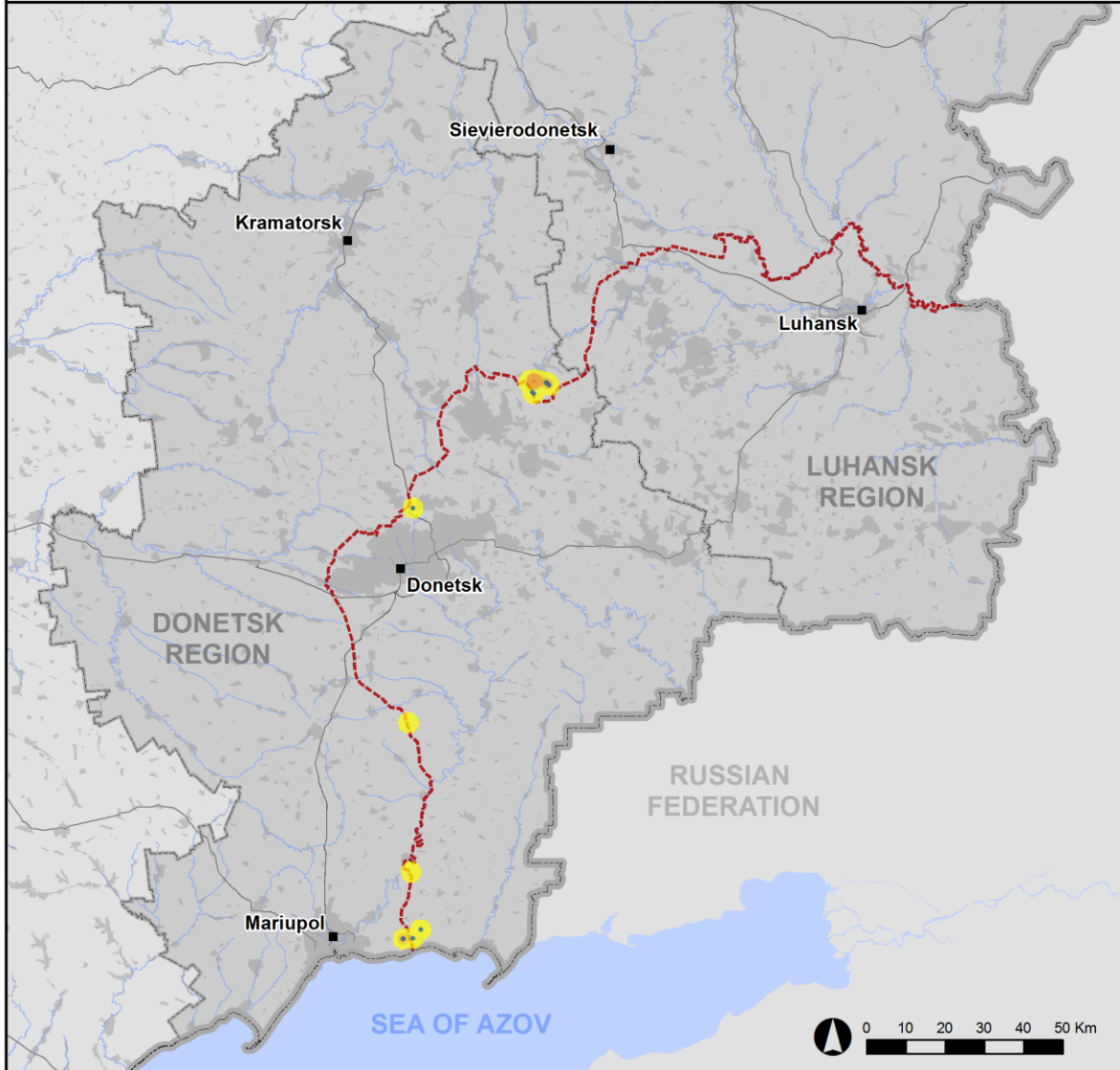
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

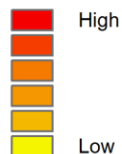


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18 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: 19/03/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 113 ceasefire violations, including 35 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred during night time at southerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 44 ceasefire violations, some of which also occurred at southerly directions of Svitlodarsk.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations for the third consecutive day. The last time the Mission recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on 15 March. (See [SMM Daily Report of 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 12,610 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 4,523 explosions, 1,500 projectiles in flight, 149 muzzle flashes, 63 illumination flares and at least 6,375 bursts and shots).

### **The SMM lost spatial control of its mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region**

On 18 March, the SMM was positioned on the western edge of Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight. At 11:55, while the UAV was flying about 2km east of the SMM's position, the aircraft experienced signal interference, immediately after which the SMM lost spatial control over it. At 12:20, the SMM was able to retrieve the UAV.\*

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

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

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), 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 one about 350m north of the area's southern edge, both on the western edge of road T-1316.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard one burst of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 2-3km east-south-east, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

---

<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.

While positioned about 2km north of Petrivske, the Mission observed an unarmed man (in his thirties) walking northwards towards Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and a car driving southwards from the direction of Styla, carrying two men (in their fifties), and later, another car moving from Petrivske to Styla, carrying four men (in their fifties). All of these men were wearing military-style clothing.

### **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 five towed howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM saw armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, including near residential houses. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Anti-tank mines near Lohvynove, Zaitseve and Pyshevyk, Donetsk region**

On 15 March, about 3.3km north-west of Lohvynove (non-government-controlled, 59km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV spotted for the first time at least 200 anti-tank mines laid in a field about 500m west of road E-40 (not visible in imagery from 4 August 2020).

On the same day, in three locations about 3km, 3.3km and 4km north-west of Lohvynove, the same UAV again spotted in total 60 anti-tank mines (including 22 TM-62) laid in three groups across the same road. About 2.2km north-west of Lohvynove, the UAV again spotted in total 113 anti-tank mines in fields on the eastern and western edges of the same road. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [28 July 2019](#), [20 January 2020](#), [7 August 2020](#) and [17 October 2020](#).)

All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 16 March, in fields about 2km south of government-controlled areas of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 310 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area see SMM Daily Reports of [9 April 2018](#) and of [27 October 2020](#).)

On 17 March, about 1.7km east-south-east of Pyshevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted about nine anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, north of the road leading to Verkhnohyrokovske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk). (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [13 May 2019](#) and of [11 February 2021](#).)

---

<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.

About 2km north-north-east of Sopyne (government-controlled, 101km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed ten de-miners (genders and ages unknown) of an international organization walking in fields east of a local road and carrying sticks (assessed as perimeter markers), as well as three vehicles parked nearby.

### **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). While positioned at a location near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), it recorded one undetermined explosion within a 5km radius of the station.

The SMM also monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable a regular railway track inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance in Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk), as well as maintenance to power lines near non-government-controlled Zolote-5/Mykhailivka and Vesela Hora (16km north of Luhansk), in 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 two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 5-7km south-east 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.

While positioned at the EECP near Zolote, the SMM saw for the first time, on its northern edge, a blue tent as well as four cars, two mini-buses and one bus, all stationary south of the tent. Subsequently, the Mission observed the bus with one driver and one passenger (men in their forties) drive and stop at the northern edge of the disengagement area. An officer of the Ukrainian Armed Forces of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) told the SMM that the bus was there to transport people intending to cross from government to non-government-controlled areas.

While positioned at the EECP near Shchastia, the Mission saw 24 members of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine leaving the area in a bus. The SMM also saw six people (three women and three men, in their sixties) standing in the area of the checkpoint.

While positioned at the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia, the SMM observed the arrival and departure of four military-type trucks: three carrying between 12 and 20 members of the armed formations (some of them armed) respectively and one carrying food items. The Mission also saw eight members of the armed formations walking northwards toward the bridge carrying sleeping bags and backpacks.

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>

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), immediately after which the Mission lost spatial control over it. The SMM was able to retrieve the UAV (see above). Another SMM mini-UAV experienced signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near the same settlement.

---

<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 UAV's position.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
18/03/21	5	Towed howitzer (type undetermined)	Near Novobesheve (21km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

### **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>				
16/03/2021	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Hnutove (90km south of Donetsk)	
16/03/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near residential houses in a government-controlled area of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
15/03/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Lohvynove (59km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
18/03/21	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Stukalova Balka (9km north of Luhansk)	Patrol

<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 18 March 2021<sup>9</sup>**

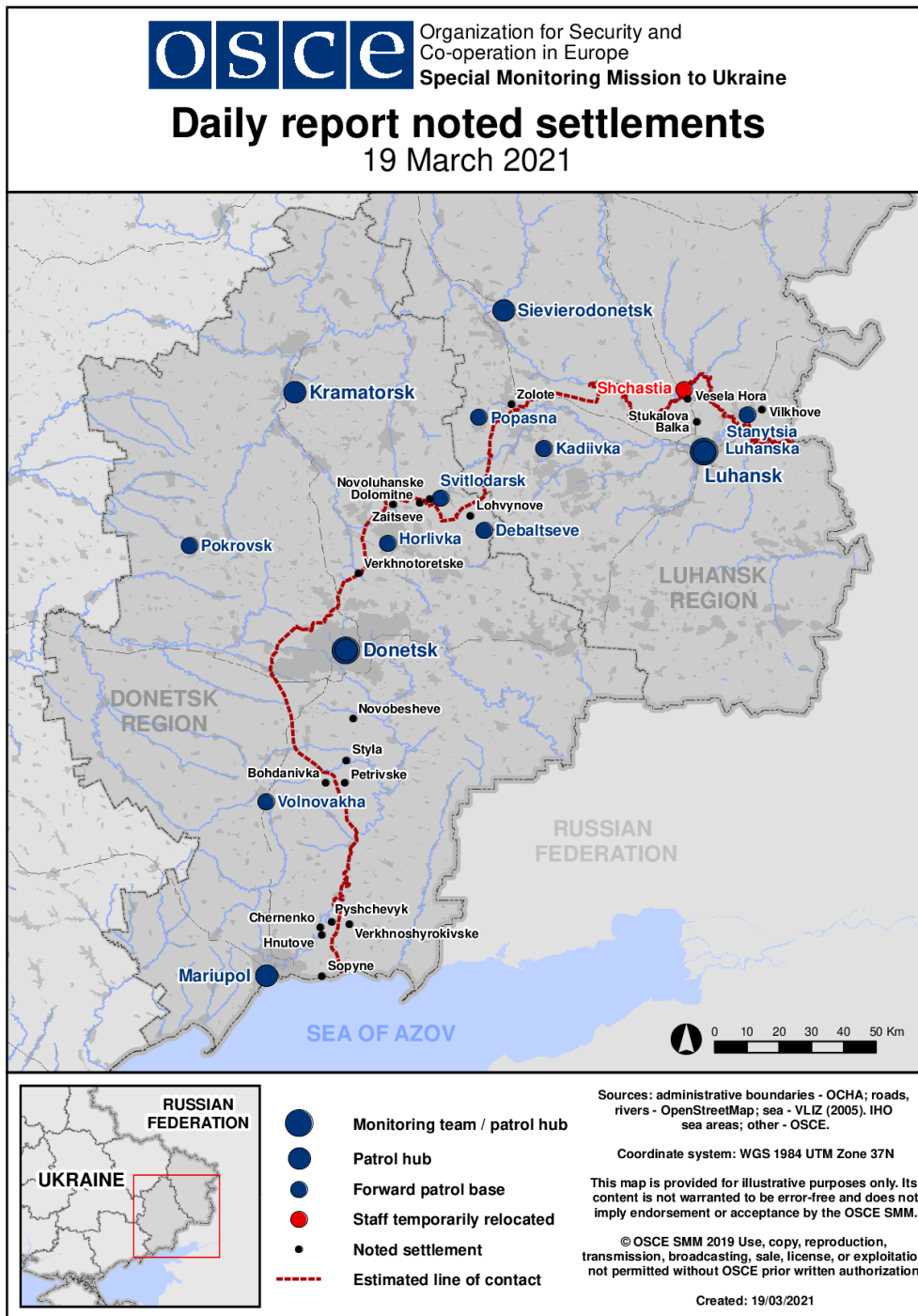
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 22:12
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	17-Mar, 22:12
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	17-Mar, 20:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 21:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 00:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 00:08
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Mar, 00:09
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Mar, 00:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 02:19
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km ESE	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske	HMG	18-Mar, 09:15
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 09:29
	6-7km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 09:56
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 10:38
About 1.5km WNW of Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 10:45

<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.



About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	5-6km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Mar, 13:24
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5km SE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 18:37-18:44
	5-6km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 18:50-18:53
	4-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 19:18
	3km S	Heard	8	Burst		Small arms	17-Mar, 19:47-19:53
	5-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 20:23
	3km SSE	Heard	9	Burst and shot		Small arms	17-Mar, 20:55
	2-3km S	Heard	11	Burst and shot		Small arms	17-Mar, 21:18-21:26
	3-4km S	Heard	13	Burst		HMG	17-Mar, 21:42-21:46
	3-4km S	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	17-Mar, 22:05
	2-3km S	Heard	16	Burst and shot		Small arms	17-Mar, 22:19-22:20
	4-5km SE	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Mar, 22:32-22:38
	3km SSW	Heard	6	Burst and shot		Small arms	17-Mar, 23:03-23:04
	3-4km SSW	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	17-Mar, 23:03-23:04
	3km S	Heard	4	Burst		Small arms	17-Mar, 23:35

### 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).