

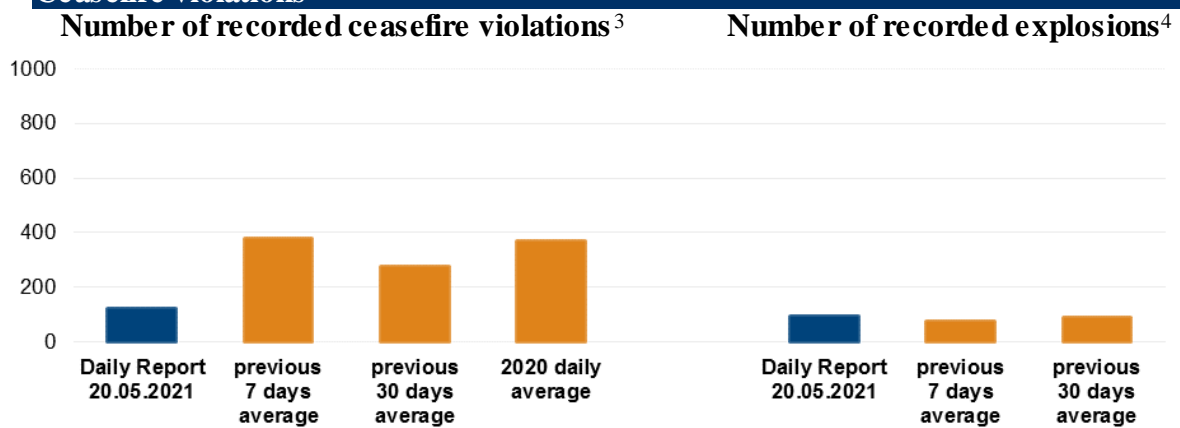
# Daily Report 115/2021

20 May 2021<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 118 ceasefire violations, including 92 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 196 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded one ceasefire violation; an undetermined explosion. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 37 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, and in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM followed up on reports of an incident at a church in Zabolottia, in Rivne region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Bezimenne and Zaichenko, southern Donetsk region. Its UAVs again experienced instances of GPS signal interference.\*

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



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

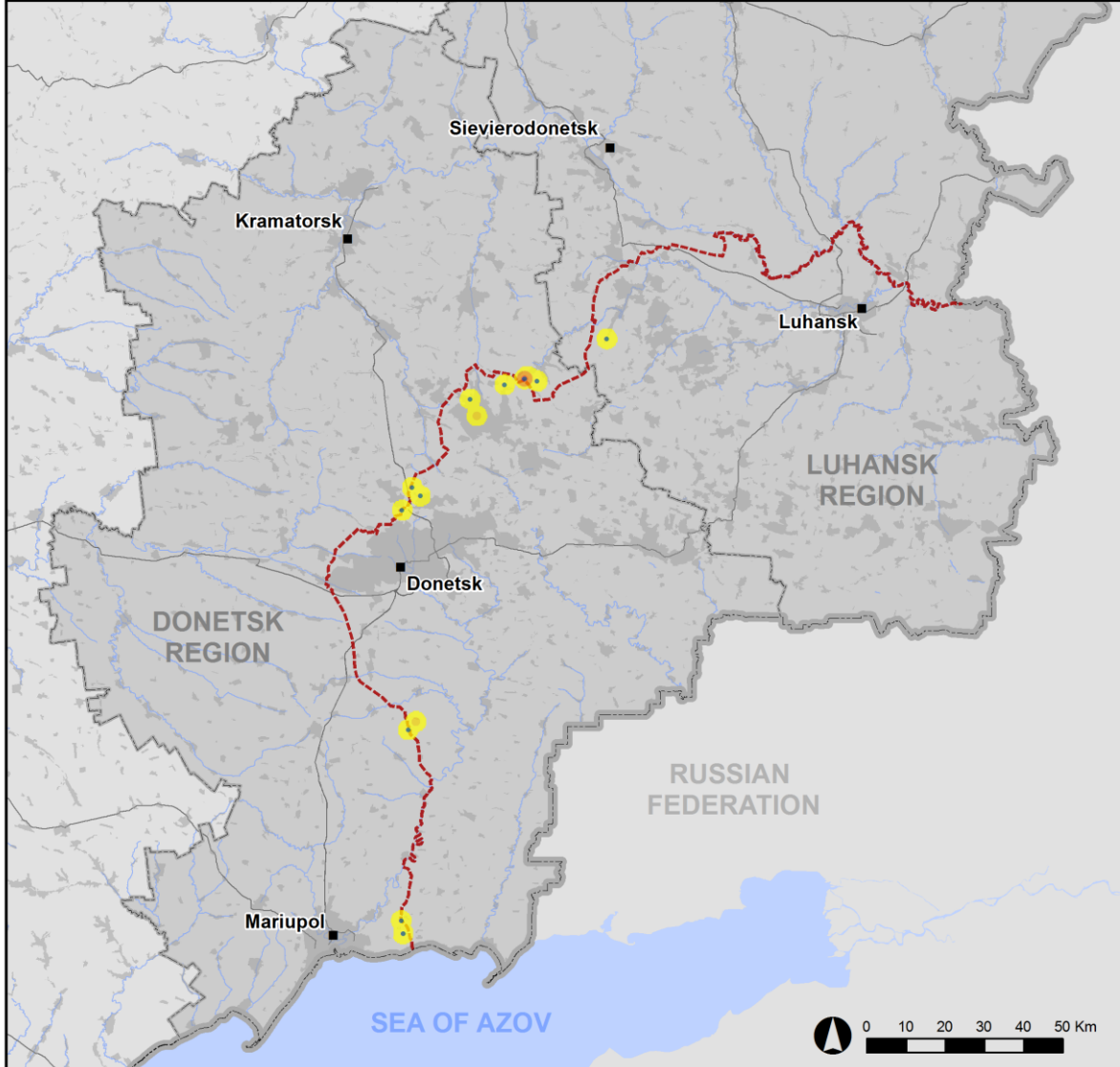
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

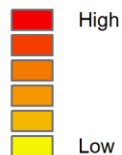


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19 May 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.

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Created: 20/05/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 118 ceasefire violations, including 92 explosions (one impact and 91 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations, including the majority of explosions, occurred at south-westerly directions of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 196 ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation; an undetermined explosion in an area south-west of Kalynove (non-government-controlled 60km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 37 ceasefire violations.

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 recorded at least 28,890 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 9,138 explosions, 4,661 projectiles in flight, 211 muzzle flashes, 99 illumination flares and at least 14,781 bursts and shots).

### 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 saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area, about 350m north of its southern edge, accompanied by four people (three women in their thirties and forties, and a man in his fifties) in medical protective gear.

The Mission again saw the eight previously observed containers located south of the disengagement area’s southern edge, on its edge and inside the area.

While positioned about 2km north of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion and ten shots of small-arms fire, all at an assessed range of 2-6km south and south-south-west, all assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

### Withdrawal of weapons

The SMM 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 Mission saw one surface-to-air missile system and one mortar in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and six tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, in a zone within which

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<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.

deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is further proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw three tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission saw armoured combat vehicles: 11 in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and four in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near residential areas.

#### **Impact craters near Zaichenko, Donetsk region**

On 15 May, about 1.5km north-east of Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), the SMM saw six impact craters, one on the northern edge and two on the southern edge of road T-0519, and three in a field about 30m south of the same road. The SMM assessed the craters as recent, caused by tank rounds fired from a west-north-westerly direction.

#### **Presence of anti-tank mines near Vodiane, Shyrokyne and Marinka Donetsk region**

On 17 May, in a field about 1km south-east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) again spotted about 52 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 1 December 2020](#).)

On 17 May, near the north-eastern edge of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV again spotted four anti-tank mines laid across road M-14 and about 50 anti-tank mines in an adjacent field south of that road. These mines were all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 9 May 2020](#).)

On the same day, about 1.8km east-south-east of the entry-exit checkpoint near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted 11 anti-tank mines laid on the eastern edge of the junction of a local road with road H-15 (of which four were seen for the first time and were assessed as not recently laid). (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 12 June 2020](#).)

On 18 May, about 2km south of Novozvanivka (government-controlled, 70km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw that a previously observed mine hazard sign was no longer present. The Mission saw for the first time a new mine hazard sign (red square, with “Stop, Mines” written on it in Cyrillic), about 80m east of the aforementioned location, near the western edge of a road leading northwards towards the settlement. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 19 April 2021](#).)

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<sup>6</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

On 19 May, about 1.5km north-north-west of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km north-east of Donetsk) and about 700m west-south-west of Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw staff of an international demining organization conducting de-mining activities in fields along the road's southern and western edges.

### **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) (DFS). While positioned on the northern outskirts of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard four undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

While positioned in Avdiivka, the Mission heard three explosions, assessed as controlled detonations.

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

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any civilian traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were 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 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.

### **SMM followed up on reports of an incident at a church in Zabolottia, Rivne region**

The SMM followed up on reports of an incident involving parishioners of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) at a church in Zabolottia (211km north-east of Lviv), Rivne region on 10 May.

On 12 May, the head of the Zabolottia village (woman, age unknown) told the Mission that, on 10 May, there had been a confrontation between parishioners of the OCU and the UOC at the church after which the police had sealed it.

On the same day, a representative of the police in Rivne region (woman, age unknown) told the SMM that, on the morning of 10 May, there had been an altercation between parishioners of the OCU and the UOC at the church in Zabolottia, and the police had sealed the church. The interlocutor added that an investigation was ongoing under Article 296, part 2 ("an act of hooliganism committed by a group of persons") and Article 356 ("unauthorized action") of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. According to her, the church will remain closed until a court decides on the ownership of the building, its contents, and the land it occupies.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, 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 Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (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 19 May 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.*

#### Denial:

- At checkpoint of the armed formations near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk), citing "safety reasons". The SMM saw vehicles passing in both directions.

#### *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.

#### Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk) only after 24 minutes.

#### Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- On 18 May, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vrubivka (government-controlled, 72km west of Luhansk)
- On 19 May, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk).

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

## Tables of weapons

### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
17/5/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i> )	Near Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
17/5/2021	6	Tank (T-72B)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is further proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014.	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
17/5/2021	3	Tank (T-72B)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014,	Mini-UAV

### **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>				
17/5/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (undetermined variant)	Near Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4 <i>Bucephalus</i> )		
18/5/2021	4	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area of Mariupol (102km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
19/5/2021	1	Combat engineering vehicle (IMR-2)		
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
18/5/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near a residential area of Kalynove (60km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
19/5/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near a residential area of Starobesheve (32km south-east of Donetsk)	

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

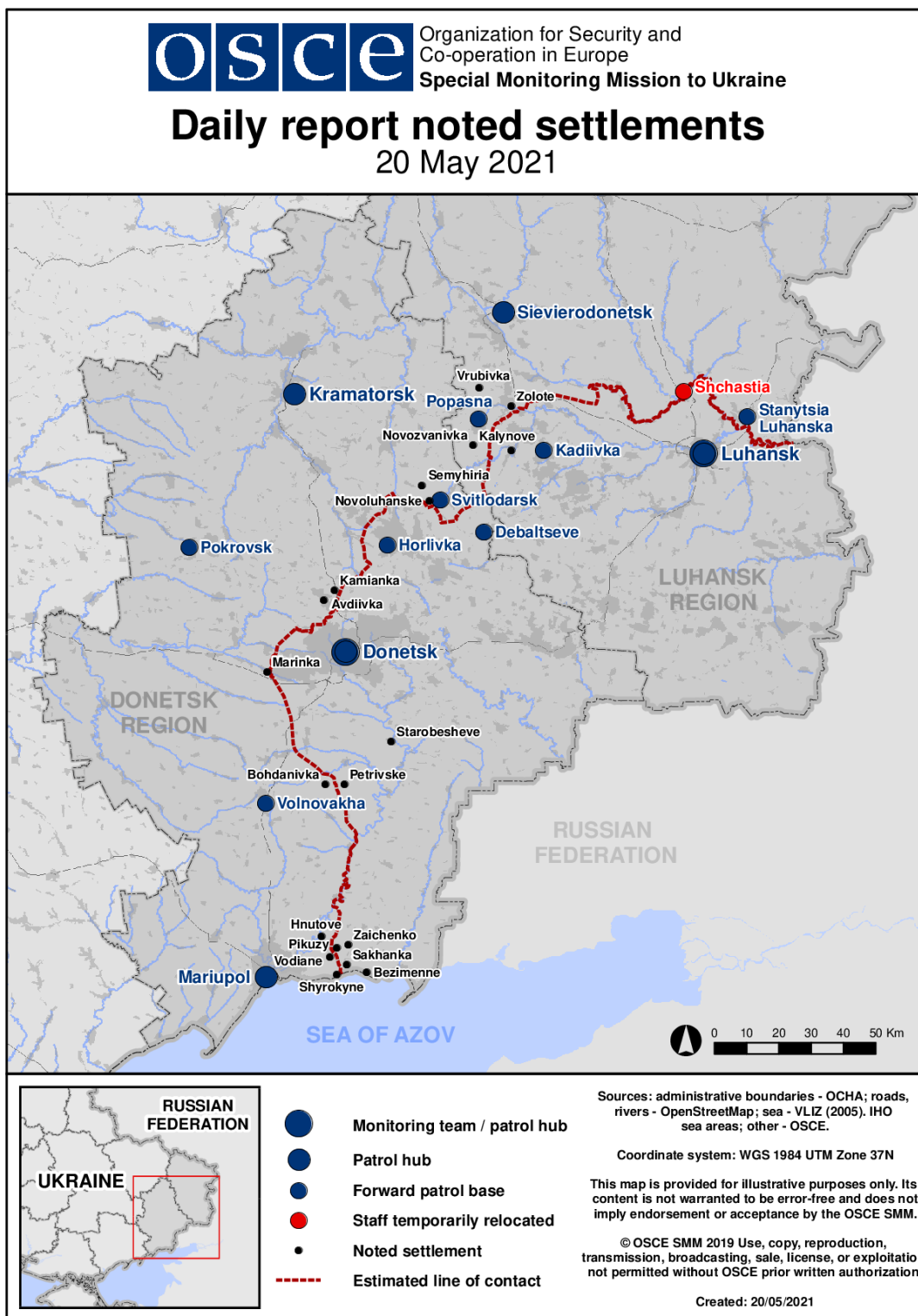
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 May 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 12:25
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 22:20
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 22:26
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	18-May, 23:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 02:48
About 2km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	10	shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	19-May, 10:20
	4-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	19-May, 12:25
About 2km ESE of Luhanske (government-controlled, 59km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 09:24
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 10:50
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 10:56
	2-3km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 12:25
Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 17:52
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km SW	Heard	53	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 18:41-19:04
	2-4km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 19:32-19:40
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 19:56
	2-4km SW	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 20:44-21:03
	2-4km SW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 21:34
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 21:47
	1-3km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	18-May, 21:59
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 22:15
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 22:25
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-May, 22:32
Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	19-May, 15:30-18:30
	2-3km W	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	18-May, 18:30-21:00
Kalynove (non-government-controlled 60km W of Luhansk)	6-9km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-May, 10:47

<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).