

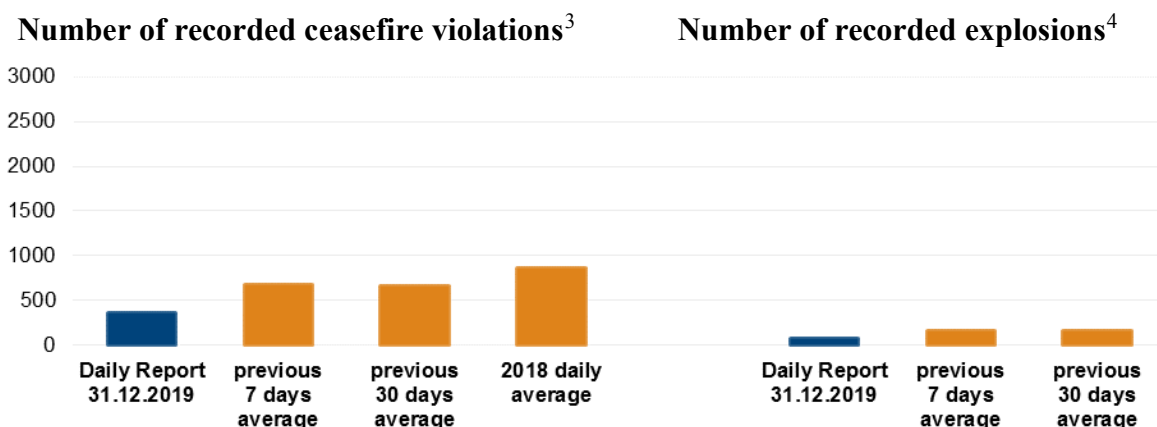
Daily Report 308/2019

31 December 2019¹

Summary

- Compared with the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded more ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM saw for the first time a camera and an antenna inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- It continued monitoring the situation at the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska and Petrivske.
- It monitored and facilitated adherence to a localized ceasefire to facilitate repairs to water wells near Slovianoserbsk and continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Verkhnoшыrokiyske and Prynorske, and at a compound near Mykhailivka.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 30 December 2019. All times are in Eastern European Time. The next SMM Daily Report covering the period of 31 December 2019 – 2 January 2020 will be issued on 3 January 2020.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in the parking lot south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was not operational.

³ Including explosions.

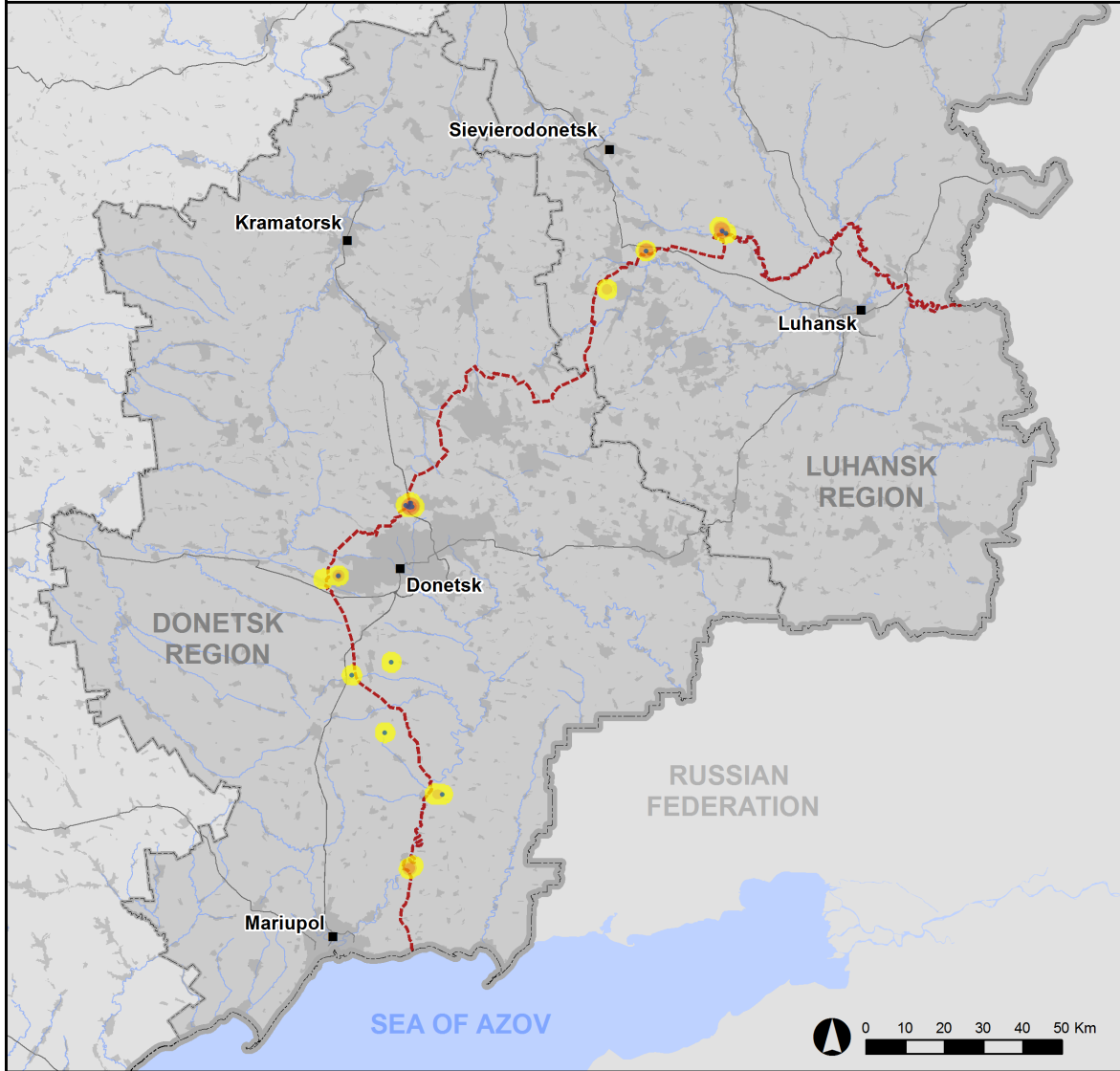
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 December 2019



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low
- 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: 31/12/2019

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (40), compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (20 explosions). The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded in southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), including four undetermined explosions and four projectiles in flight at a range of 200m-1km south and south-south-east.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations, including more explosions (about 40), compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (two explosions). All of the ceasefire violations were recorded at south-westerly directions of Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km north-west of Luhansk) and in areas north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote, and Petrivske⁵

On 30 December, outside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted a newly dug trench (10m in length) in the south-western outskirts of Stanytsia Luhanska (not seen in imagery from 31 October).

On the same day, inside the disengagement area, just north of the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north of Luhansk), the Mission saw three workers from non-government-controlled areas welding and painting metal parts of fences on both sides of the road. Throughout the day, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new section of the bridge and the checkpoint of the armed formations south of it.

Inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw for the first time a north-facing camera and an antenna installed on an electric pylon about 150m north-east of the checkpoint of the armed formations. Throughout the day, on the northern edge of the disengagement area, the SMM saw four Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel and, on the area’s southern edge, it saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

On 29 December, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) [again](#) spotted 16 anti-tank mines about 100m north of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) and [again](#) five anti-tank mines in a field approximately 1.5km north of Petrivske, all outside the disengagement area and assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 30 December, positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard an undetermined explosion at a range of 4-6km south-west, 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.

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

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

Mine hazard signs near Dovhe

About 3km south-east of Dovhe (non-government-controlled, 22km north-west of Luhansk), in a field about 50m north-west of a local road connecting road P-66 to Dovhe, the SMM saw for the first time four red signs with “Stop, Mines” written in Russian attached to metal poles.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for an hour, the SMM saw 48 cars (seven with Ukrainian and 20 with Russian Federation licence plates, as well as 21 with “DPR” plates), five buses (one with Russian Federation licence plates as well as four with “DPR” plates), and 12 pedestrians (mixed ages and genders) entering Ukraine. It also saw 14 cars (two with Ukrainian and five with Russian Federation licence plates, as well as seven with “DPR” plates), a bus with Ukrainian licence plates, and seven pedestrians (mixed ages and genders) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for 30 minutes, the SMM saw one male pedestrian in his sixties entering Ukraine but saw no pedestrian traffic exiting Ukraine and no vehicle traffic in either direction.

Utility shortages affecting civilians along the contact line

In Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk), six residents (mixed genders, 45-60 years old) told the SMM that they had previously been without water since 21 December but that the water supply had begun to improve in the early morning of 30 December. However, they said that water had not been restored to every home – two residents (women, 35-55 years old) told the SMM that their homes were still without water and, on the same day, the Mission saw a water distribution truck driving towards Donetskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km west of Luhansk) (for similar observations, see [SMM Daily Report of 30 December 2019](#)).

In Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk), a resident (woman in her 40s) told the SMM that her village had been without electricity since the morning of 29 December, and a resident (woman) of Tavrycheske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk) told the SMM by phone that there had been no electricity in her village for five days, which had led to difficulties in accessing water.

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

SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM monitored and facilitated adherence to a localized ceasefire to facilitate repair works to water wells near Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk) and continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS.

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 Package of Measures 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 Co-ordination 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 27 December 2019](#)). 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 of access:

- At a checkpoint west of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), four members of the armed formations (two of them armed) [again](#) denied the SMM passage, citing “demining activities in the area.”
- At a checkpoint near Prymorske (non-government-controlled, 76km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage to Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk), citing “sniper activity in the area”.
- At a compound of the armed formations near Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 74km south-east of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM entrance, telling the SMM to request “permission” from the armed formations.

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.

Table of indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
28/12/2019	2	Armoured combat vehicle (probable BMP)	In Luhanske (59km north-east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
30/12/2019	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/12/2019	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In Bezimenne (100km south of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk)	

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

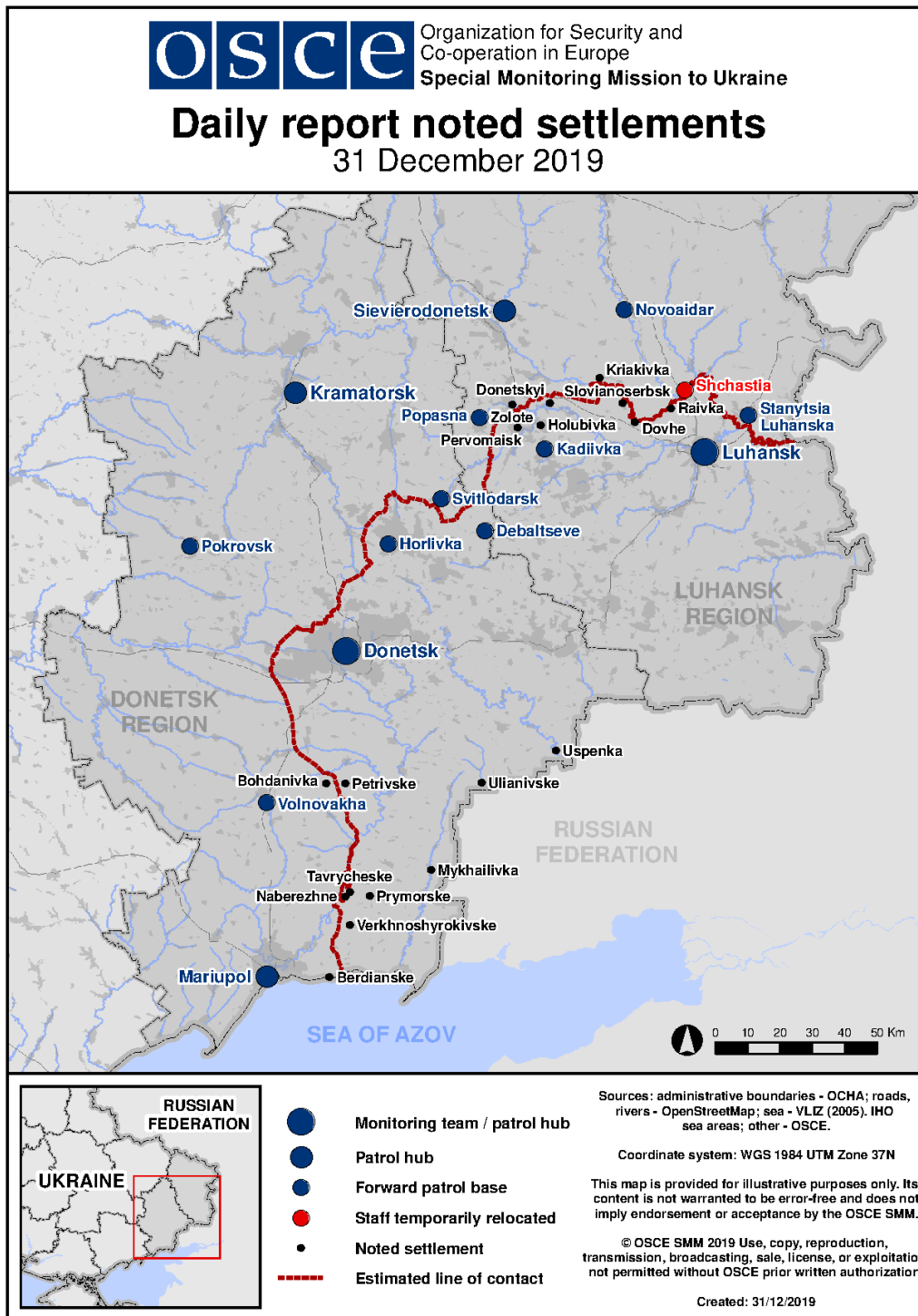
Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 December 2019⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	4	Projectile	NE to SW	N/K	29-Dec, 22:27
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	30-Dec, 01:35
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	22	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	30-Dec, 03:53
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	29-Dec, 20:12
	1-2km S	Recorded	4	Projectile	ENE to WSW	N/K	29-Dec, 20:24
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 20:25
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:26
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	29-Dec, 20:26
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	29-Dec, 20:27
	1-2km S	Recorded	8	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:41
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	29-Dec, 20:41
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:42
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	5	Projectile	E to W	N/K	29-Dec, 20:43
	1-2km S	Recorded	9	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:43
	1-2km S	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 20:48
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	29-Dec, 20:48
	1-2km S	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 20:48
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 20:52
	1-2km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	29-Dec, 20:52
	1-2km SW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NE to SW	N/K	29-Dec, 20:52
	1-2km S	Recorded	8	Projectile	E to W	N/K	29-Dec, 20:52
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	2	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:52
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 20:53
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	3	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:53
	0.5-1km S	Recorded	2	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	29-Dec, 20:53
	1-2km S	Recorded	5	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:54
	0.3-1km S	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	29-Dec, 20:54
	1-2km S	Recorded	11	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:55
	1-2km S	Recorded	5	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 20:56
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 20:56
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	29-Dec, 21:12
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 21:12
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 21:36
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	29-Dec, 21:36
	1-2km S	Recorded	6	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 21:37
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 21:37
	1-2km S	Recorded	2	Muzzle Flash		N/K	29-Dec, 21:38
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	1	Burst	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 21:38
	0.6-1.2km SSE	Recorded	22	Projectile	ENE to WSW	N/K	29-Dec, 21:38
	1-2km S	Recorded	5	Burst	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 21:39
	1-2km S	Recorded	3	Burst	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 22:05
	1-2km SSE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	29-Dec, 22:05

⁸ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM 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 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 and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 22:05
	200-700m S	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 23:14
	200-700m SSE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 01:02
	0.8-1.5km S	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	30-Dec, 17:25
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	4-6km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 23:23
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Burst	N to S	N/K	30-Dec, 01:21
	2-4km E	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N	N/K	30-Dec, 01:21
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Burst	W to E	N/K	30-Dec, 01:21
	3-5km E	Recorded	5	Projectile	In a vertical flight	N/K	30-Dec, 17:58
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In a vertical flight	N/K	30-Dec, 18:00
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In a vertical flight	N/K	30-Dec, 18:01
SMM camera in Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	17	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	29-Dec, 18:51
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 21:22
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 21:23
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 21:24
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	30-Dec, 10:08
	1-2km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	30-Dec, 10:58
Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km S of Donetsk)	10km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 11:20
NW edge of Dokuchaievsk (non-government-controlled, 30km SW of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 11:10
About 2 km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Petrivske disengagement area)	N/K	30-Dec, 11:21
	2-4km SW	Recorded	6	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	29-Dec, 20:40
SMM camera in Kriakivka (government-controlled, 38km NW of Luhansk)	2-4km SW	Recorded	5	Projectile	E to W	N/K	29-Dec, 20:42
	2-4km SW	Recorded	48	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	29-Dec, 20:42
	2-4km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 20:42
	2-4km WSW	Recorded	17	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	29-Dec, 20:43
	2-4km SW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 21:02
About 1km NW of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	8-10km NE	Heard	39	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 14:04-14:45
	8-10km NE	Heard	17	Burst		HMG	30-Dec, 14:24-14:54
	5km SW	Heard	13	Burst		HMG	30-Dec, 14:24-14:54

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).