



Daily Report 291/2020

7 December 2020¹

Summary

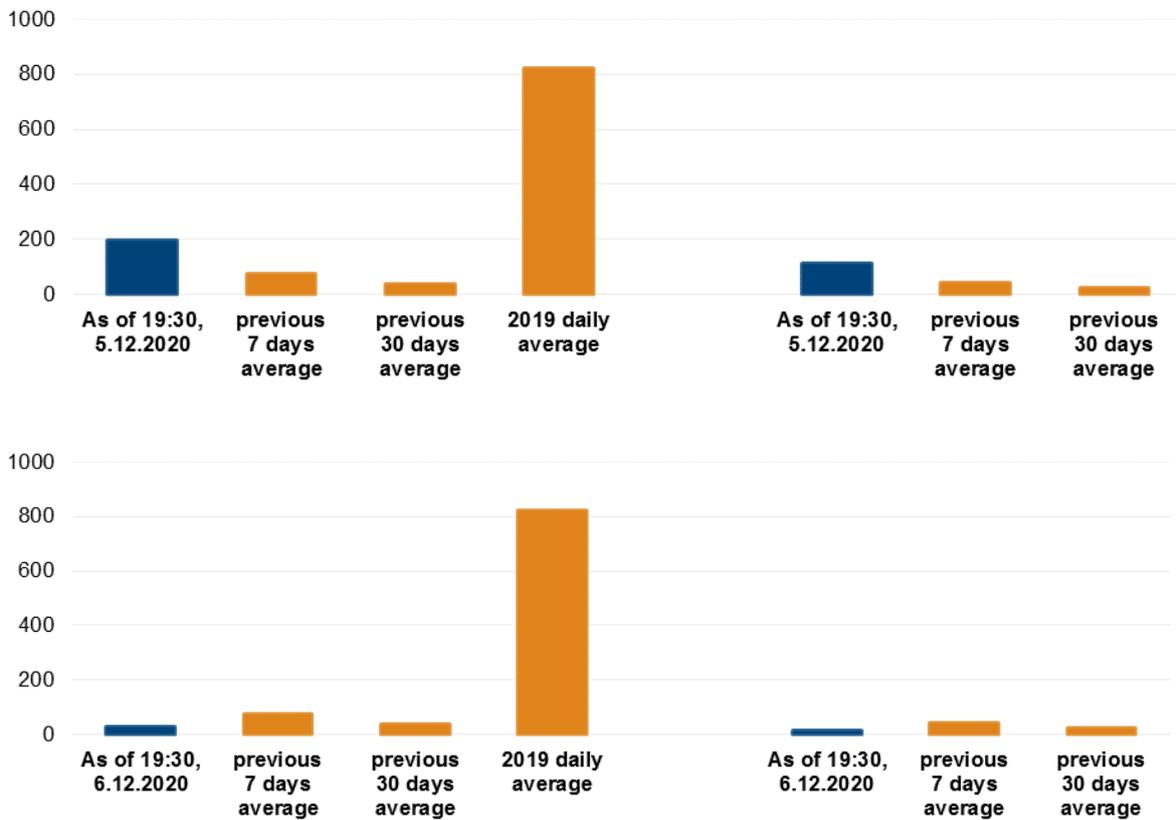
- Between the evenings of 4 and 6 December, the SMM recorded 134 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 57 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 4 and 6 December, the SMM recorded 89 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM observed fresh damage to a residence in Donetsk city.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 6 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



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

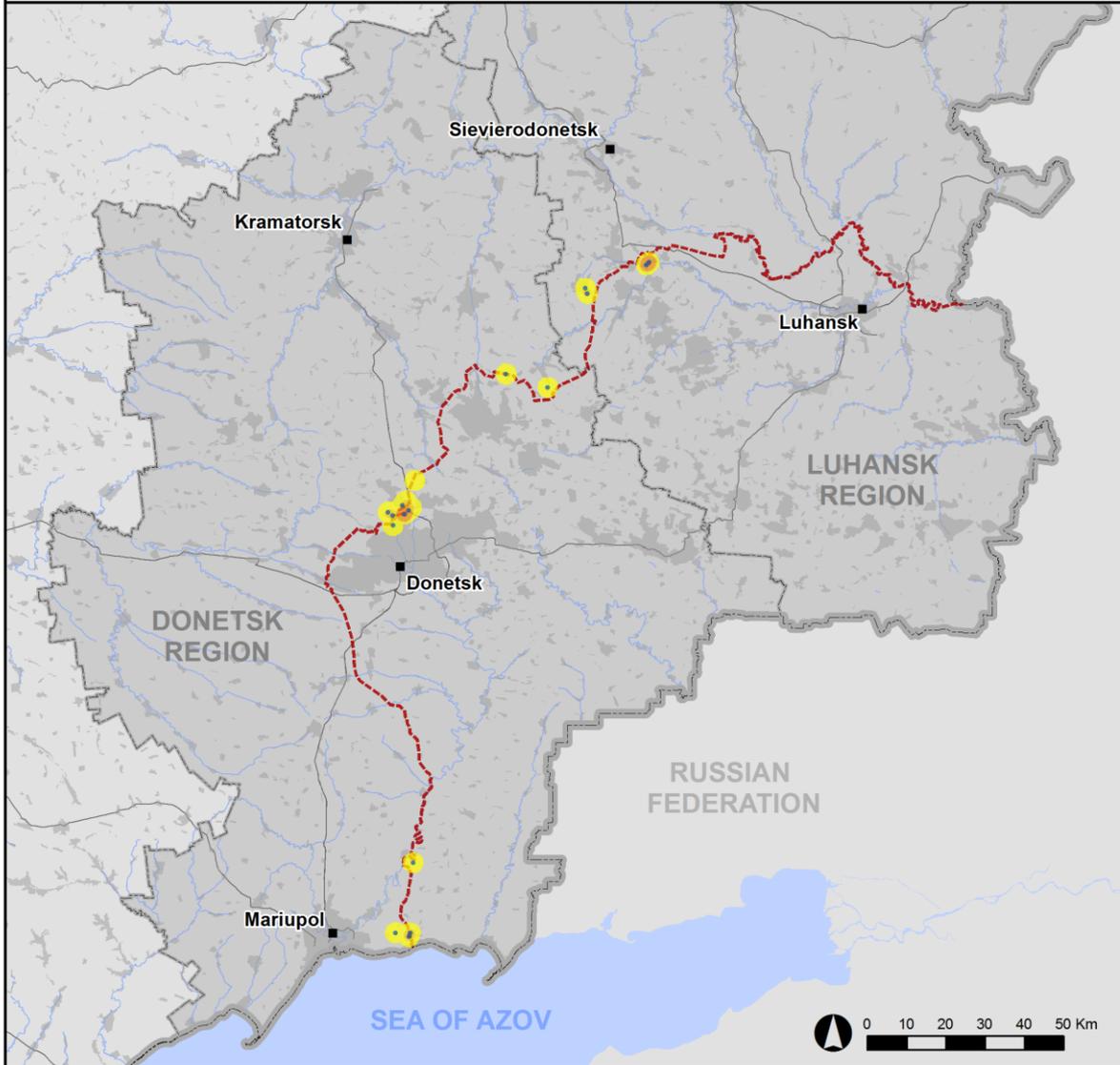
³ Including explosions

⁴ 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 5-6 December 2020



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: 07/12/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 4 and 6 December, the SMM recorded 134 ceasefire violations, the majority of which, including 20 undetermined explosions, were recorded at south-westerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 57 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 4 and 6 December, the SMM recorded 89 ceasefire violations, including 74 undetermined explosions in an area north-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 13 ceasefire violations in the region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 3,218 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,341 explosions, 100 projectiles in flight, 37 muzzle flashes, 38 illumination flares and 1,702 bursts and shots).

Fresh damage to residential property in Donetsk city

On 6 December, the SMM observed two holes, assessed as fresh, in an inhabited residence at 1/3 Bokiia Street in the Trudivski area of the Petrovskiyi district in Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of the city centre) – one in a south-west-facing window and one in the metal sheeting covering the south-facing side of the roof (10cm and 20cm in diameter, respectively). The SMM could not determine the type of weapon or direction of fire.

At the same location, the owner of the house (man in his thirties) told the Mission that the damage had occurred on the afternoon of 5 December while he had been outside and that he had heard ongoing shooting for about ten minutes. He said that he had managed to hide in his house and that nobody had been injured.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 5 and 6 December, the SMM observed members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), south of the new span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 5 December, while positioned about 1.5km south-east of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the Mission recorded 27 undetermined explosions and three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 2-3km north-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery.

On 5 and 6 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

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

On 5 and 6 December, while positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

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.

The SMM saw two self-propelled and two towed howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region, all in violation of withdrawal lines (for further details, see table below).

Weapons permanent storage sites

At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region
6 December

The SMM noted that one tank (T-72) remained missing.

At a heavy weapons permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region
6 December

The SMM noted that one self-propelled howitzer (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) remained missing.

Presence of mines and unexploded ordnance near Vesela Hora, Luhansk region

On 4 December, about 2.5km north-east of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) and about 100m south-west of road H-21, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted for the first time five partially buried anti-tank mines (TM-62), assessed as part of a previously reported minefield of 40 anti-tank mines (TM-62), as well as four discarded fuses of TM-62 mines. All the aforementioned were assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 14 November 2020](#)).

In the same field, about 15m west of the aforementioned minefield, the same UAV spotted for the first time a light grey metal tube, assessed as a piece of probable unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Also in the same field, about 200m north-west of the aforementioned minefield, 25m south-west of the edge of road H-21, the same UAV again spotted 40 anti-tank mines (TM-62), assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report 25 April 2019](#)).

On 5 December, in the south-western outskirts of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw for the first time a sign with “Entrance Forbidden. Ongoing Military Operation. Road is Mined.” written on it in Russian.

SMM facilitation of operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 5 December, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities near Heivka (government-controlled, 27km north-west of Luhansk)

and between government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

On 5 and 6 December, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS.

On 5 December, while positioned about 2.5km south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM recorded 74 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions. On 6 December, while positioned near two locations near the station, the Mission recorded seven shots and bursts of small-arms fire. All of these ceasefire violations were assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, on 5 December, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. On 6 December, the Mission observed that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic.

In Luhansk region, on 5 December, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska as well as the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational, with pedestrians queueing to travel in both directions. On 6 December, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians queueing to travel in both directions.

On both days, the Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational 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 remained closed.

Border areas outside government control

On 5 December, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), the Mission did not observe any cars or pedestrians entering or exiting Ukraine.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Dnipro, Lviv, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, 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, 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 (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 1 December 2020](#)). 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:

- On 5 December, on five occasions, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).⁶

⁶ 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
Non-government-controlled areas				
6/12/2020	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	2	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

Table of ceasefire violations as of 6 December 2020⁷

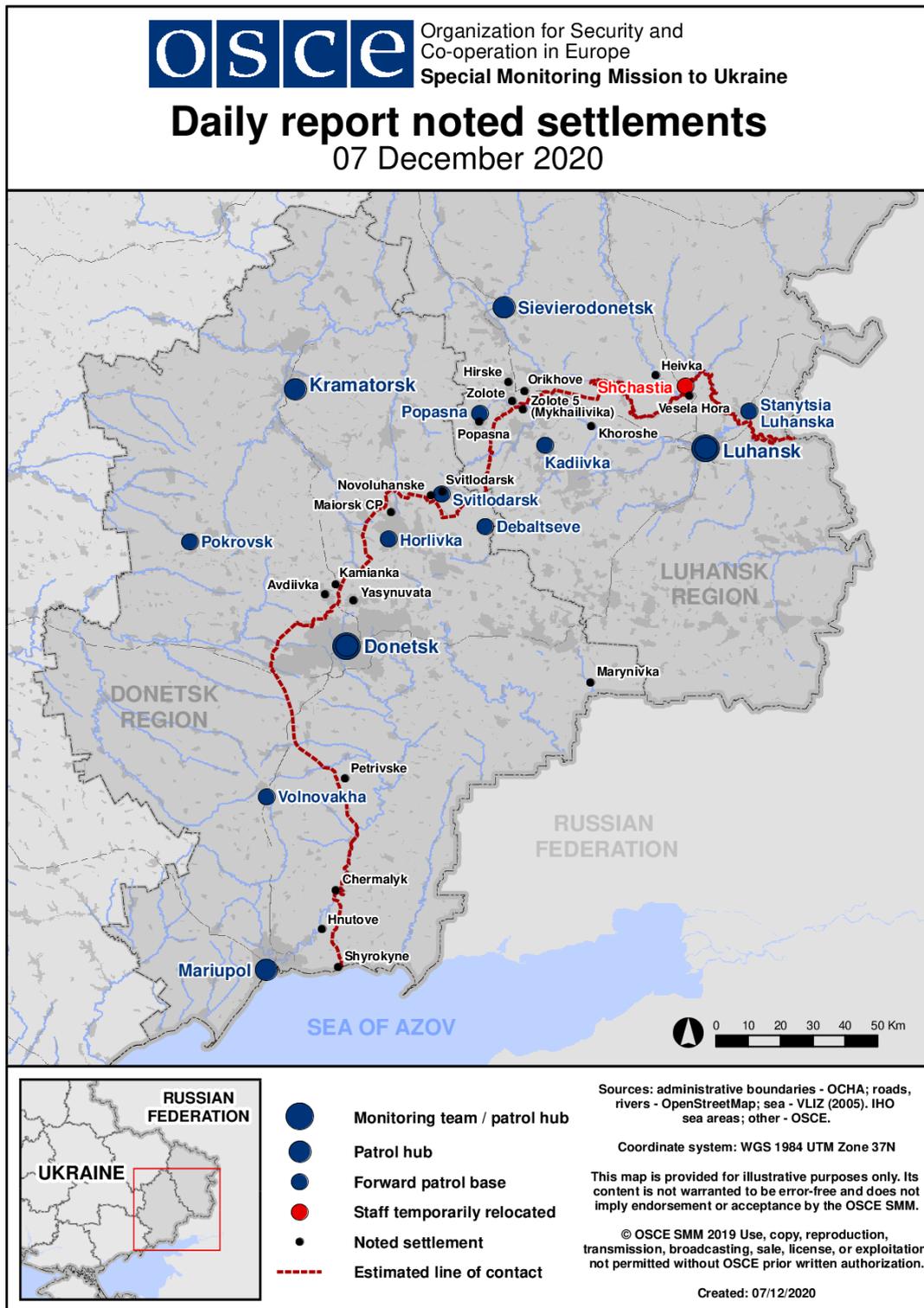
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 16:51
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 21:19
	4-6km NNW	Recorded	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 21:24
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 23:03
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 23:42
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	5-Dec, 17:22
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	5-Dec, 17:30
	3-4km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 10:44- 10:50
	2-3km SW	Heard	6	Burst	Within 5km of DFS	Small arms	5-Dec, 11:02- 11:21
8-10km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:02- 11:21	
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 10:45- 10:50
	3-5km SSW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:36- 11:38
	3-4km SSE	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	5-Dec, 11:20- 11:45
	3-4km SSE	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	5-Dec, 11:20- 11:45
	3-4km SSE	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	5-Dec, 11:20- 11:45
	3-5km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:43
	3-4km SSE	Heard	33	Shot		Small arms	5-Dec, 11:50- 12:20
	3-4km SSE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 12:07
	3-4km SSE	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	5-Dec, 12:18
	3-4km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 12:18
S edge of Svitlodarsk (government- controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:29
About 1.1km SW of Novoluhanske (government- controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 12:32
N edge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	4-Dec, 20:40- 20:42

⁷ 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.

1.5km SE of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	3-4km NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:37-11:44
	2-3km NE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:37-11:44
	2-3km NE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	5-Dec, 11:37-11:44
	3-4km NE	Heard	26	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 11:53-12:04
	3-4km NE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	5-Dec, 11:53-12:04
	3-4km NE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 12:09-12:20
	2-3km NE	Heard	16	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Dec, 12:09-12:20
	2-3km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	5-Dec, 12:25-12:31
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE (also recorded by the SMM camera at Oktiabr mine)	N/K	5-Dec, 22:15
	2-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera at Oktiabr mine)	N/K	6-Dec, 00:13
	2-3km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera at Oktiabr mine)	N/K	6-Dec, 01:17
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 00:06
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 20:50
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 20:54
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 17:13
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	5	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	6-Dec, 17:51
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km E	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 08:50
E part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	6-Dec, 09:55
	2-3km SE	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 09:55

N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	5-6km SSE	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 00:15-00:20
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Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁸



⁸ 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).