

Daily Report 300/2020

17 December 2020¹

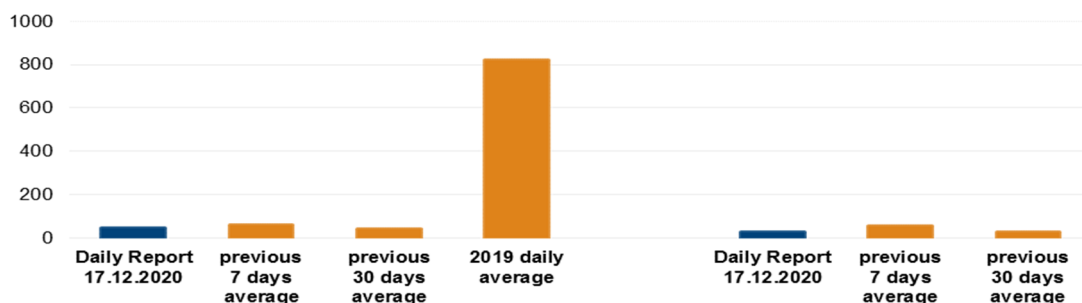
Summary

- The SMM recorded 28 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 31 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 18 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded eight ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in Dachne, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and observed a calm situation inside all three.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited a border crossing point on, and monitored areas close to, the border with the Russian Federation outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including near non-government-controlled Staromykhailivka, where the SMM had to land its UAV after members of the armed formations threatened to shoot it down.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 16 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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, and heavy fog obscured the observations of almost half of the SMM cameras along the contact line.

³ Including explosions

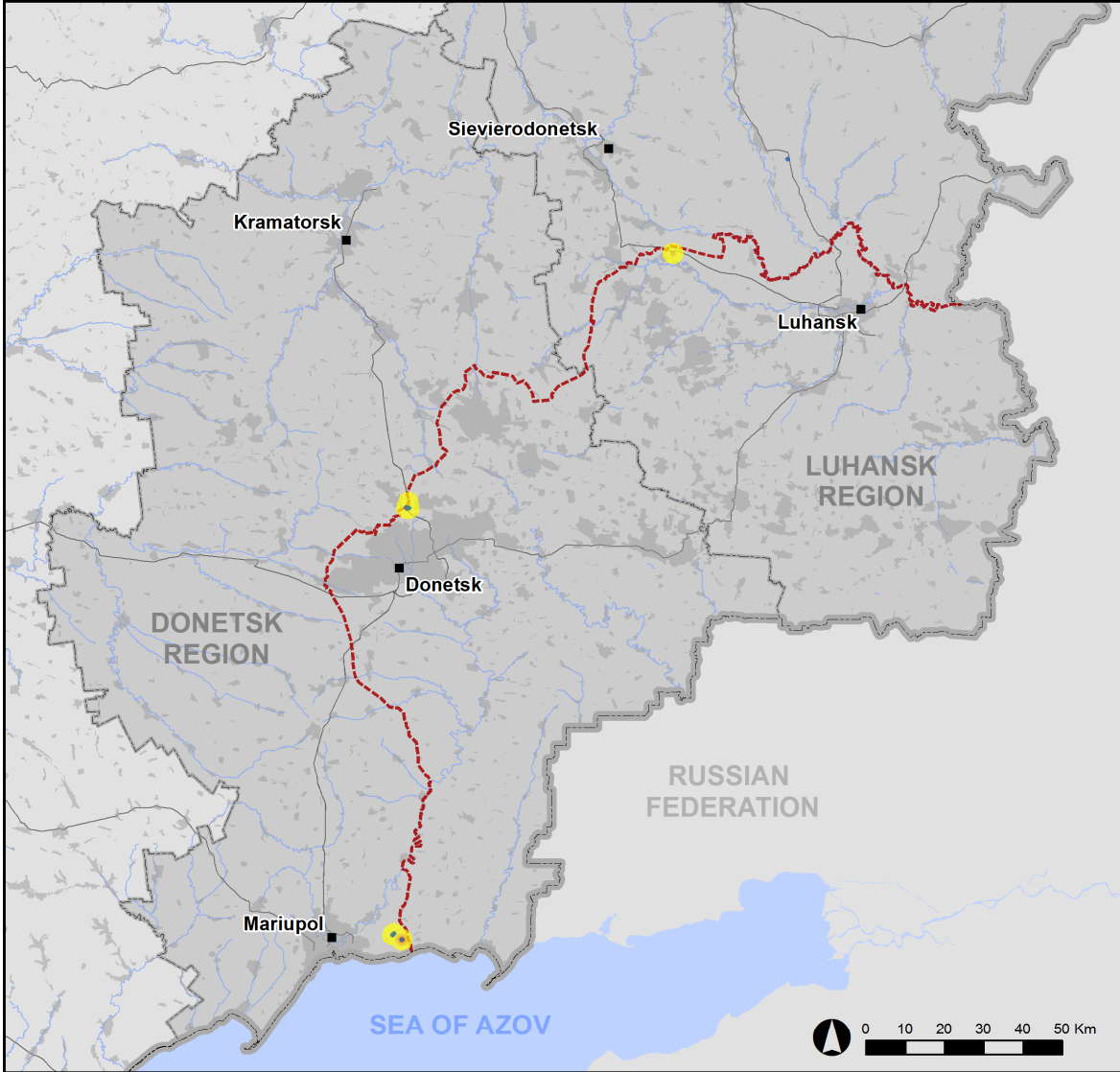
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

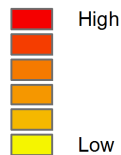


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 December 2020



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: 17/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations, including 22 undetermined explosions, of which 17 were recorded at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 31 ceasefire violations in the region, all undetermined explosions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 18 ceasefire violations, of which ten, including three undetermined explosions, were assessed as live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded eight 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 3,768 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,754 explosions, 119 projectiles in flight, 55 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and 1,799 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in Dachne, Luhansk region

While positioned on the north-eastern edge of Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard eight shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 2-3km north-north-west, assessed as directed at the UAV, which was flying about 2.5km north-north-west of the SMM's position. The Mission safely landed the aircraft and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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) on the southern edge 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 SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), of whom two, accompanied by three people in medical protective gear, walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

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.

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

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

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

The Mission observed an armoured combat vehicle and an anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), repairs to a water conduit between government-controlled Raihorodka (34km north-west of Luhansk) and Lopaskyne, repairs to water infrastructure near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), repairs to power lines in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre) and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

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

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. While positioned nearby, the Mission saw two men transporting a coffin from non-government- to government-controlled areas. The Mission saw a snowplough being used to clear the area north of the repaired span of the bridge.

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

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about two hours, the Mission observed 24 cars (including 13 with "DPR" plates), two buses with "DPR" plates with about 75 passengers (mixed genders and ages) and 25 people (14 women and 11 men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. The SMM also saw a bus (with "DPR" plates) with about 40 passengers (mixed genders and ages), 43 cars (including 25 with "DPR" plates) and ten people (four women and six men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored border areas outside government control near Tarany (74km east of Donetsk), Hryhorivka (75km east of Donetsk), Semenivske (73km east of Donetsk) Biloiarivka (64km east of Donetsk) and Amvrosiivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

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 (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 15 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.

Denials:

- While conducting an announced mini-UAV flight near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (one visibly armed), told the SMM to land the UAV and leave the area or the UAV would be shot down. The Mission landed the aircraft and left the area.

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:

- While conducting a mini-UAV flight near Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard eight shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the Trudivski area of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

| Date | No. | Type | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 16/12/2020 | 1 | Combat engineering vehicle (BAT-2) | On the southern edge of Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk) | Patrol |
| | 1 | Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm) | On the eastern edge of Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk) | |

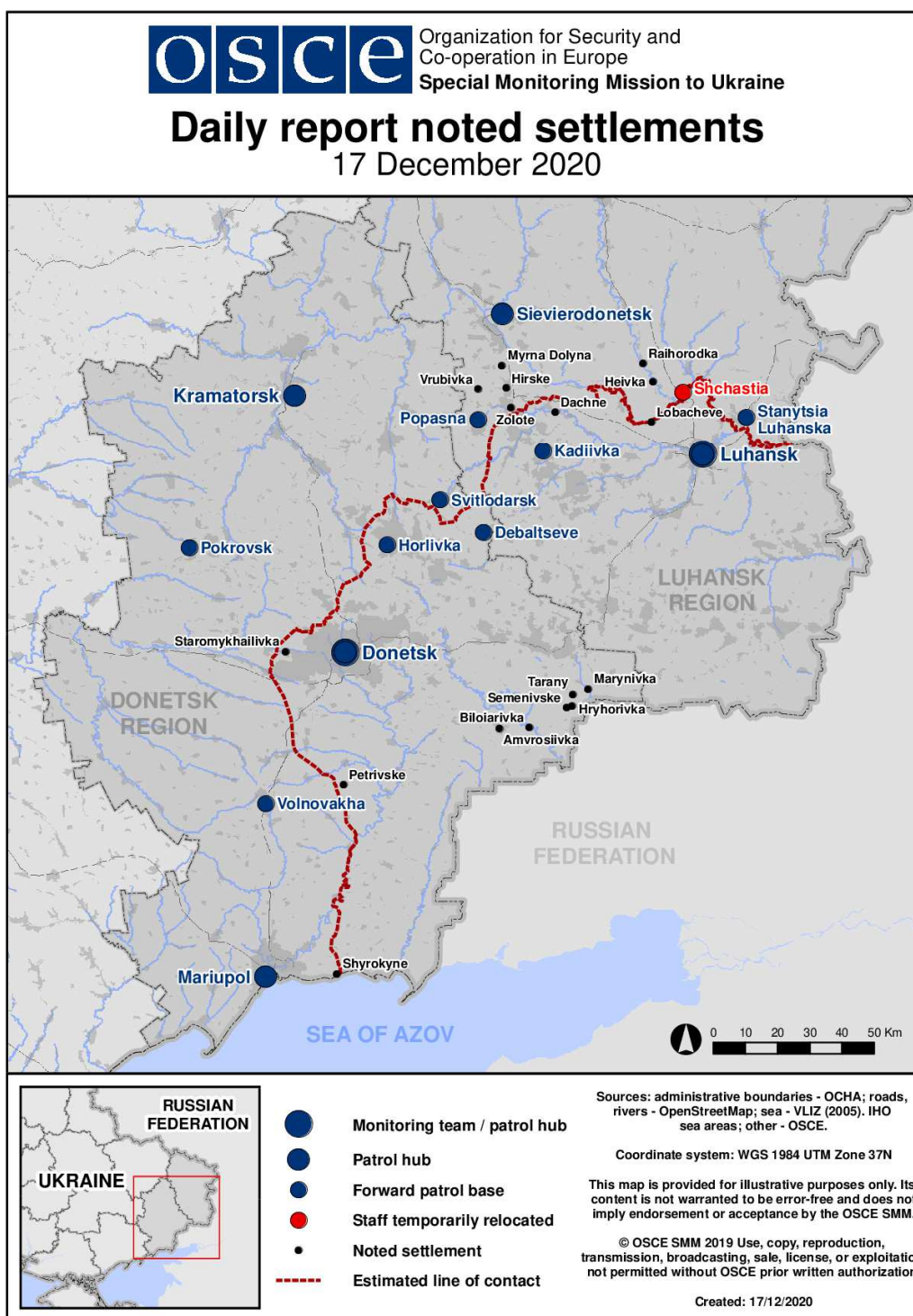
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 December 2020⁹

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|--|----------------|----------|-----|--------------|--|------------|---------------------|
| SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk) | 3-5km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:48 |
| SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk) | 400-800m SSW | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 16-Dec, 00:22 |
| | 400-800m SSW | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 16-Dec, 00:23 |
| | 1-3km SSW | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 00:54 |
| | 1-3km S | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 02:57 |
| SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk) | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 00:22 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 00:59 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:00 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:01 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:38 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:39 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:40 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:41 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 01:42 |
| | 3-5km W | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Outgoing | N/K | 16-Dec, 17:48 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | Subsequent to previous event | N/K | 16-Dec, 17:48 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 18:49 |
| About 1km SW of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk) | 3-4km NE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 09:39 |
| | 3km NE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 16-Dec, 10:46 |
| | 3km NE | Heard | 1 | Burst | | Small arms | 16-Dec, 10:46 |
| SE edge of Novoaidar (government-controlled, 49km NW of Luhansk) | 5-7km SSE | Heard | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as live-fire exercise) | N/K | 16-Dec, 10:08-10:10 |
| | 5-7km SSE | Heard | 7 | Burst | Assessed as live-fire exercise | HMG | 16-Dec, 10:08-10:10 |
| NE edge of Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km W of Luhansk) | 2-3km NNW | Heard | 8 | Shot | | Small arms | 16-Dec, 10:53 |

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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).