

Daily Report 302/2020

19 December 2020¹

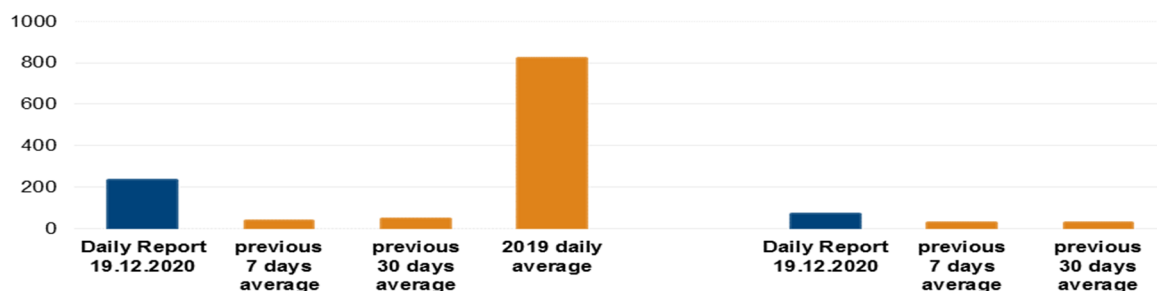
Summary

- The SMM recorded 232 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 63 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded two ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 21 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of a man killed by the detonation of an explosive object near Trokhizbenka, Luhansk region.
- The Mission 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 critical civilian infrastructure and a transfer of funds in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at one entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) and the corresponding armed formations' checkpoint in Donetsk region, and 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 violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 18 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 snowfall and heavy fog limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

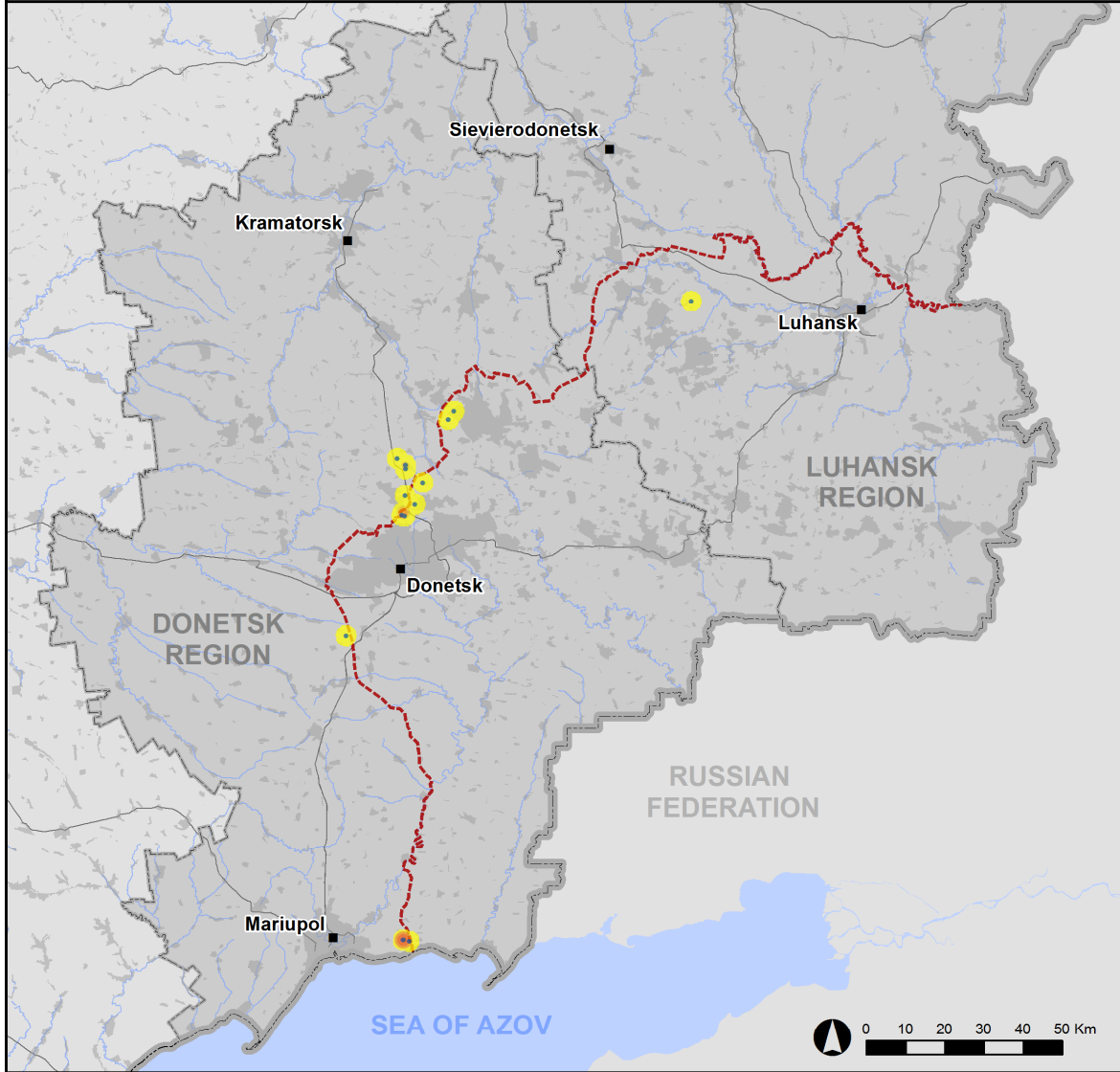
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

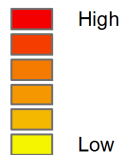


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18 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: 19/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 232 ceasefire violations, including 68 undetermined explosions, of which 162 ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 63 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which were also recorded at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations, both undetermined explosions, in the areas west of Zymohiria (non-government-controlled, 27km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 21 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 4,086 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,889 explosions, 243 projectiles in flight, 55 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and 1,858 bursts and shots).

A man's body was found near Trokhizbenka, Luhansk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a man killed by the detonation of an explosive object on 17 October near Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk).

On 23 October, a representative of the local administration in Trokhizbenka (man in his fifties) told the SMM over the phone that the body of a man (in his forties) from Zhovte (non-government controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk), who had been killed by a mine detonation on 17 October, had been found near Trokhizbenka on 18 October.

On 12 December, in Zhovte, a woman (in her thirties), who introduced herself as the spouse of the man, told the SMM that her husband had stepped on a mine on his way to visit his daughter in Trokhizbenka on 17 October.

On 15 December, staff at the morgue in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) told the SMM that, on 19 October, the body of a man (in his forties) had been delivered to the morgue and that the man had died from blood loss caused by injuries consistent with an explosion.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

The SMM observed two 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), 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 Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), three of whom, accompanied by four people in medical protective gear, walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. Ten meters east of the checkpoint, by the side of the road, the SMM observed eight workers with one bulldozer, one steamroller and one truck, assessed as digging foundations, reportedly for a shelter for the armed formations.

⁵ 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 at three 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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw seven multiple launch rocket systems at a railway station in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region, and a probable surface-to-air missile system in a residential area of non-government-controlled Luhansk region.

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At three heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region
18 December

The SMM noted that five anti-tank guns (2A29 MT-12 *Rapira*, 100mm) and eight self-propelled howitzers (2A36 *Giatsint-B*, 152mm) were present and that seven self-propelled howitzers 2S3 *Akatsiya*, 152mm, 41 towed howitzers (29 D-20, 152mm and 12 2A36 *Giatsint-B*, 152mm), 14 anti-tank guns (six D-48, 85mm, and eight 2S29 *Rapira*, 100mm) and four towed mortars (2B9 *Vasilek*, 82mm) were again missing.

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

The Mission observed armoured personnel carriers both in government- and non-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, 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 (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at three locations close to the station, the Mission recorded 44 ceasefire violations, including four explosions (three undetermined and one outgoing), all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

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

The SMM also monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire in order to enable a transfer of funds from non-government- to government-controlled areas across the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), reportedly related to water payments.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

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.

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia 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.

At the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia, the SMM observed 11 workers, one excavator, one snowplough, and one support vehicle digging ditches, assessed as for water pipes. The SMM also observed fences being installed on the side of the road near the checkpoint.

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.

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 four occasions, a single SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk).⁸

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/12/2020	7	Multiple launch rocket systems (BM-27 <i>Uragan</i> , 220mm)	At a railway station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
17/12/2020	1	Probable surface-to-air missile system (9K31, <i>Strela-1</i>)	In a residential area of Kalynove-Borshchuvate (61km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR-4)	Near Zolote (60km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/12/2020	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, 51km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

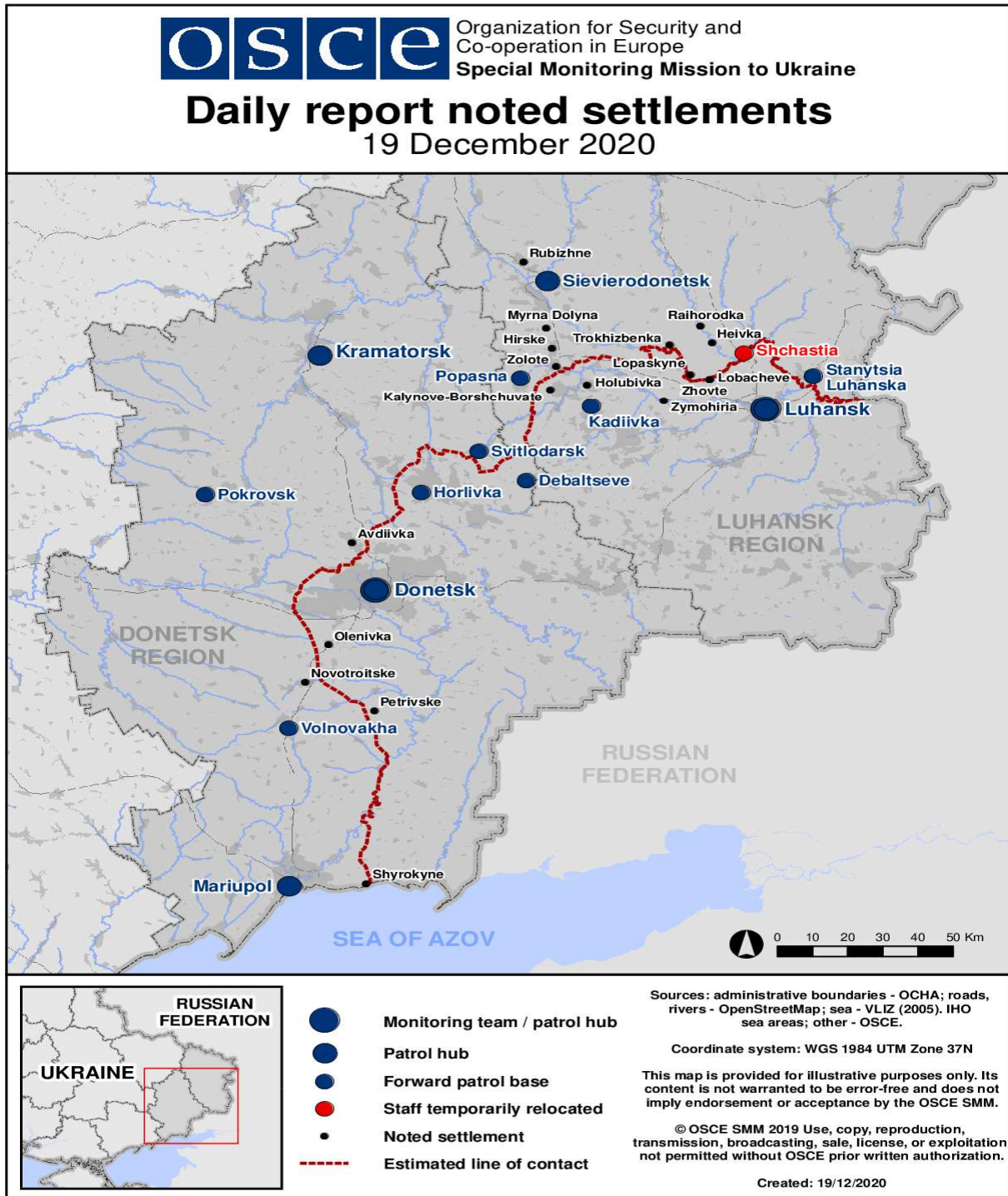
Table of ceasefire violations as of 18 December 2020¹⁰

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 N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 19:03
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 20:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:13
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:50
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:51
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 23:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:36
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:37
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:47
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:50
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 00:57
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:06
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:11
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:15
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:16
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:21
	3-5km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:26
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:28
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:33
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:35
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:36
	3-5km N	Recorded	14	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:37
	3-5km N	Recorded	11	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:44
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	9	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:48
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Dec, 01:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	33	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 01:54
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 01:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Dec, 01:55
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Dec, 02:00	
3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 02:00	
3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 02:11	
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-	1km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	18-Dec, 12:10

¹⁰ 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.

government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)							
SE part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-5km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 09:56
	2-3km SSE	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	18-Dec, 10:00-10:07
	2-3km SSE	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	18-Dec, 10:01-10:09
	1-2km E	Heard	20	Shots and bursts		Small arms	18-Dec, 11:57-12:00
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion		N/K	18-Dec, 12:10
About 700m SW of Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 09:23
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	4-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 09:48
	3-4km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:13
	4-5km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:20
	4-5km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:24
	4-5km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:33
	4-5km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:36
	4-5km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:42
	3-4km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:46
About 300m NNW of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:43
	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:48
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	6-7km ESE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:54-10:58
	6-7km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:05
	6-7km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:10-11:13
About 600m SE of Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk),	6-8km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:56
1.7km N of Zymohiria (non-government-controlled, 27km W of Luhansk)	10-15km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 09:30

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).