

Daily Report 305/2020

23 December 2020¹

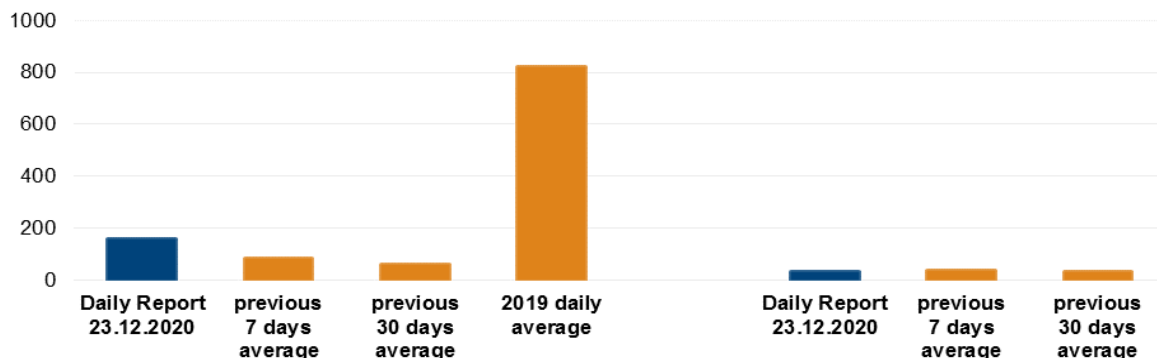
Summary

- The SMM recorded 46 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 97 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 116 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- 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 four entry-exit checkpoints and three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Siedove, Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 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.

³ Including explosions.

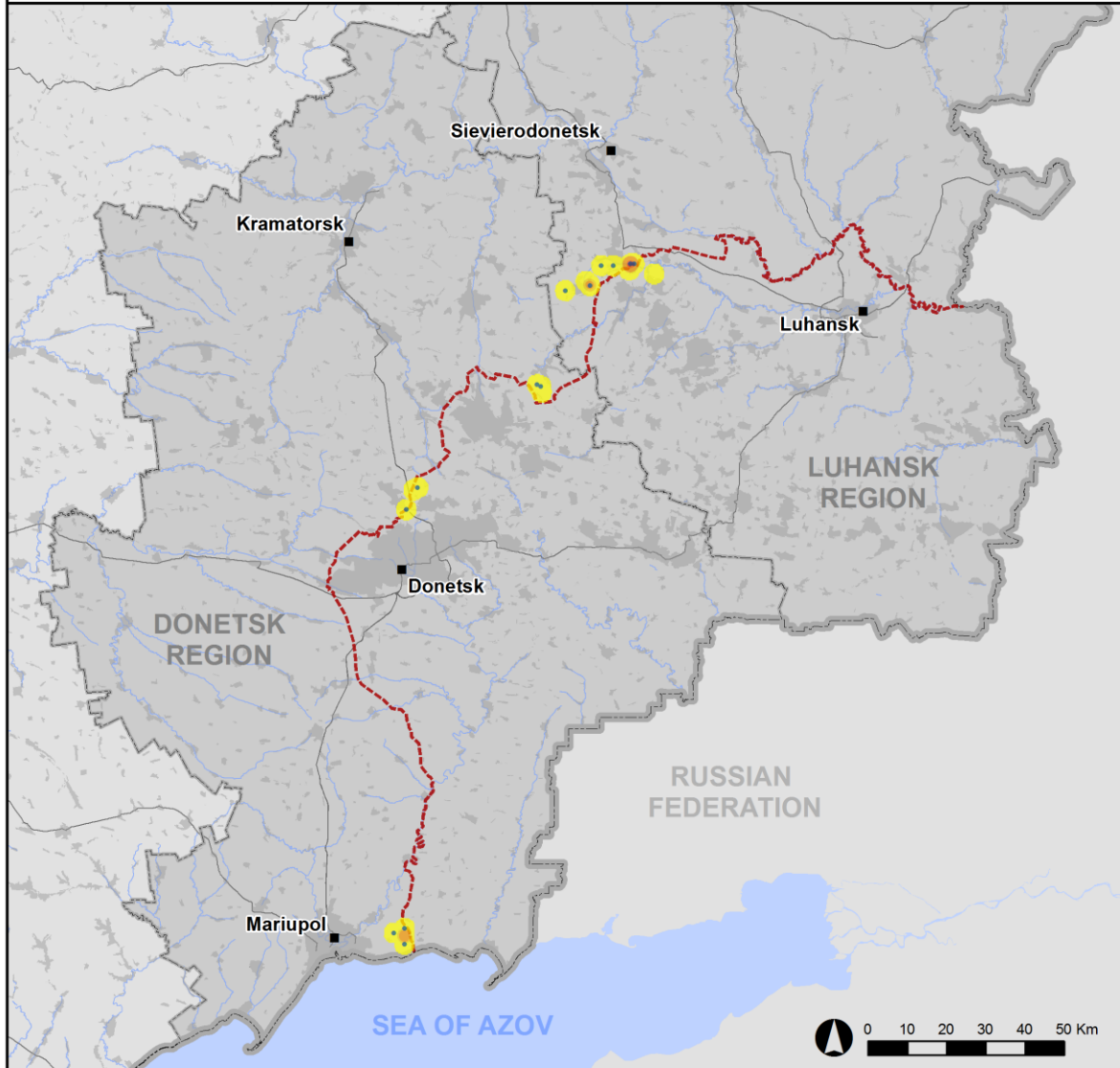
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

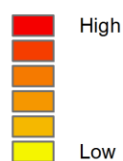


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 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: 23/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 46 ceasefire violations, including 17 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 97 ceasefire violations, most of which were recorded in areas north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 116 ceasefire violations, including 17 explosions (16 undetermined and one incoming), most of which occurred in areas north of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below) and south of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), including 18 bursts of infantry fighting vehicle cannon fire. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations.

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 at least 4,444 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,981 explosions, 395 projectiles in flight, 57 muzzle flashes, 42 illumination flares and at least 1,969 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 22 December, 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).

On the evening of 21 December, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one muzzle flash, 11 undetermined explosions and 73 projectiles in flight. During the day on 22 December, while positioned at two locations near the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the SMM recorded three undetermined explosions. All of these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery. During the same day, while positioned on the northern edge of Popasna, the SMM heard three explosions at an assessed range of 3-5km west-north-west, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO) outside the area.

On 22 December, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) walk inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

While positioned outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), about 250m east of its north-eastern corner, the SMM saw a man in military-type clothing walking westward.

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.

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 Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region and on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including one with a probable electronic warfare system atop it (for further information, see the table below).

On 20 December, about 2km south of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), along the eastern edge of a local road, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted for the first time a pillbox made of probable concrete slabs and four dugouts (each 2 square meters and 1m deep) (not seen in imagery from 6 July 2020).

SMM facilitation of repairs to 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), maintenance of road T-1316 near Zolote and repairs to water infrastructure near Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. During the day on 22 December, while positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM heard six undetermined explosions and a burst of heavy-machine-gun fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. The Mission saw two golf carts, one stationary and one operating between the EECP and the repaired section of the bridge.

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

About 50m east of the former checkpoint of the armed formations, the SMM observed workers with a vehicle and platform attaching electrical cables and installing lamps to newly erected poles, as well as digging a hole with drilling equipment in an area nearby.

About 10m south of the latter checkpoint of the armed formations, on the eastern edge of the road, the Mission saw for the first time a container. It also saw workers installing a fence in an area nearby.

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

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 20 and 21 December, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region, at a Security Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson) and at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson).

The SMM continued monitoring in 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, 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.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations on the the western outskirts of Siedove (non-government-controlled, 106km south of Donetsk) a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage to the settlement, saying that the Mission was not allowed to enter the village. While there, the Mission saw civilian vehicles crossing the checkpoint.

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:

- An SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over the Petrovskyi district of Donetsk city (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				
21/12/2020	3	Infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-1)	Near Prychepylivka (50km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
22/12/2020	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
22/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR variant) with a probable electronic warfare system atop it	Near Prymorske (76km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

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 22 December 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 18:01
	6-8km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Dec, 21:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 23:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 02:43
	4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	22-Dec, 02:43
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N	N/K	22-Dec, 02:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	22-Dec, 02:45
	6-8km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 02:59
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	22-Dec, 00:15
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	5-7km NE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 09:27-09:29
	1-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 13:47
	1-3km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 13:49
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	22-Dec, 10:45
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km ESE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 10:39
	6-7km ESE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 10:46-10:53
About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	1-2km NNE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 12:40
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:13
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:13
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:18

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.

	3-5km E	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:22
	3-5km E	Recorded	5	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:22
	3-5km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:22
	3-5km E	Recorded	12	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:23
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:23
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:24
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:24
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:25
	3-5km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:25
	3-5km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:26
	3-5km E	Recorded	6	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:27
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:27
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:28

	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:28
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:29
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:29
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:31
	3-5km E	Recorded	14	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:31
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:38
	3-5km E	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:39
	3-5km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:39
	3-5km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:40
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:40
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	21-Dec, 22:41
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-4km SE	Heard	18	Burst		IFV (type N/K)	21-Dec, 22:35-22:41
	1.5-2.5km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	21-Dec, 22:40-22:41
	5-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Incoming	N/K	21-Dec, 22:47
About 4km north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Dec, 10:15

SW edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivika (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	5-7km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 11:05-11:14
About 1.5km W of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	3-4km E	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	22-Dec, 11:24-11:28
SW edge of Zolote-2/Karbonit (government-controlled, 62km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Dec, 13:19
	3-5km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Dec, 13:42

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).