

Daily Report 306/2020

24 December 2020¹

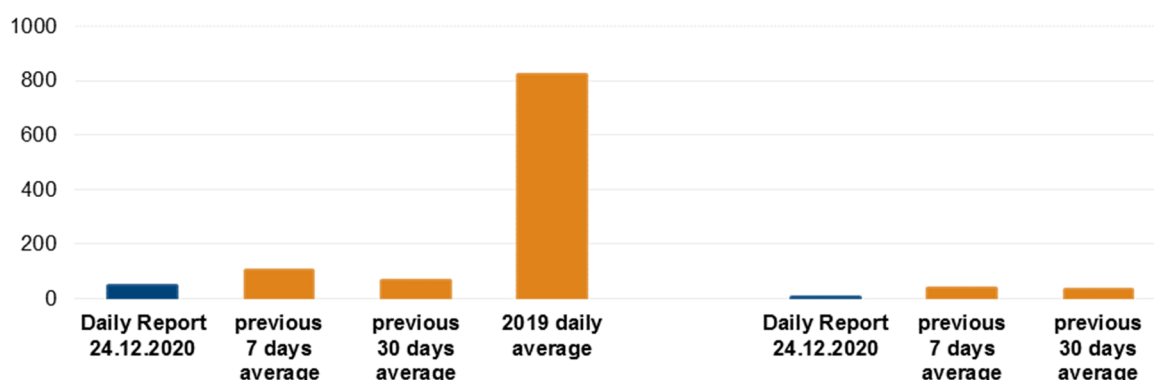
Summary

- The SMM recorded 41 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 46 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded seven ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 116 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and observed people inside the two latter areas.
- 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 five checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission'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, 23 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.

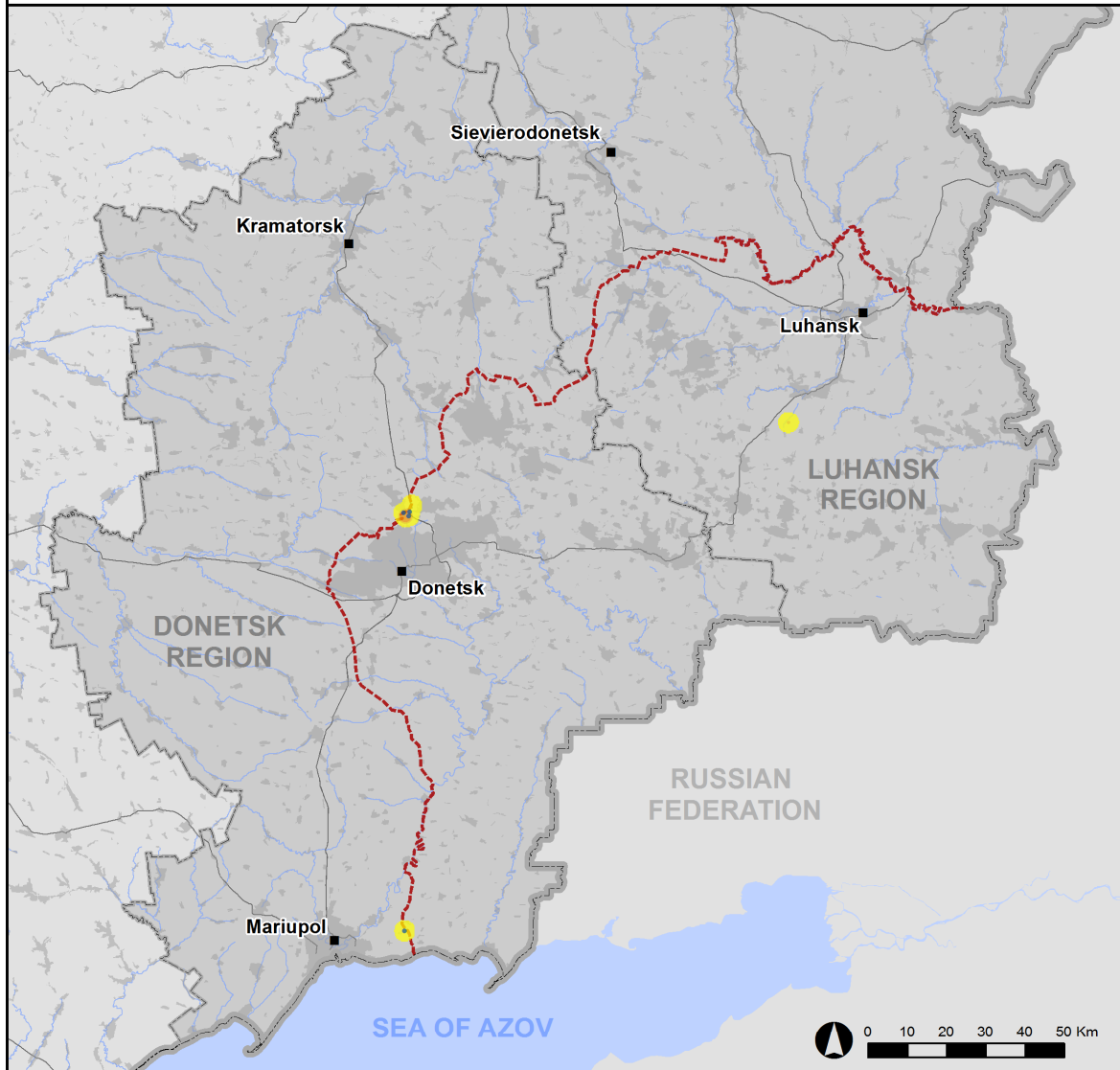
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

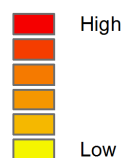


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 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: 24/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 41 ceasefire violations, including four undetermined explosions, most of which were recorded in areas south and south-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 46 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations, all bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as a live-fire exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 116 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 at least 4,492 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,985 explosions, 397 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 43 illumination flares and at least 2,006 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 23 December, the SMM observed five 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).

During the day on 22 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted five people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces: two near the area’s north-eastern corner and three about 600m west-south-west of the same corner. On 23 December, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), three of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 23 December, while positioned about 250m east of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM [again](#) saw a man in military-type clothing inside the area, entering a tarpaulin shelter about 100m south-west of its north-eastern corner.

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 six howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas, the Mission saw a self-propelled howitzer near residential houses in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as three tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

Weapons permanent storage sites

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

23 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

23 December

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

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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), repairs of water infrastructure in Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM recorded two undetermined explosions and 30 shots of small-arms 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 Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic, and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM saw that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were 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.

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

About 20m north of the latter checkpoint, the Mission observed ten workers with heavy equipment unloading metal pipes and preparing to install them.

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 22 December, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over government-controlled areas near Kostiantynivka (60km north of Donetsk), Svitlodarsk (57km north-east of Donetsk) and Toretsk (formerly Dzerzhynsk, 43km north of Donetsk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over government-controlled areas near Stepanivka (54km north of Donetsk), Ivanopillia (51km north of Donetsk), Popasna (69km west of Luhansk,) Pleshchiivka (51km north of Donetsk) and Sukha Balka (36km north of Donetsk).
- On 23 December, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).
- On the same day, an SMM mini-UAV twice experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over areas near Lysychansk (government-controlled, 75km north-west of Luhansk).

- On 23 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced signal loss on five occasions, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over areas near Kalynove-Borshchuvate (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Tables of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/12/2020	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
23/12/2020	1	Self-propelled howitzer (type undetermined)	In a residential area of Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
23/12/2020	3	Tank (T-64)	In a training area near Kruhlyk (31km south-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
22/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	5	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)	Near Shumy (41km north of Donetsk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP-2 and one BMP-1)	In a compound near Dyliivka (49km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM-2)		

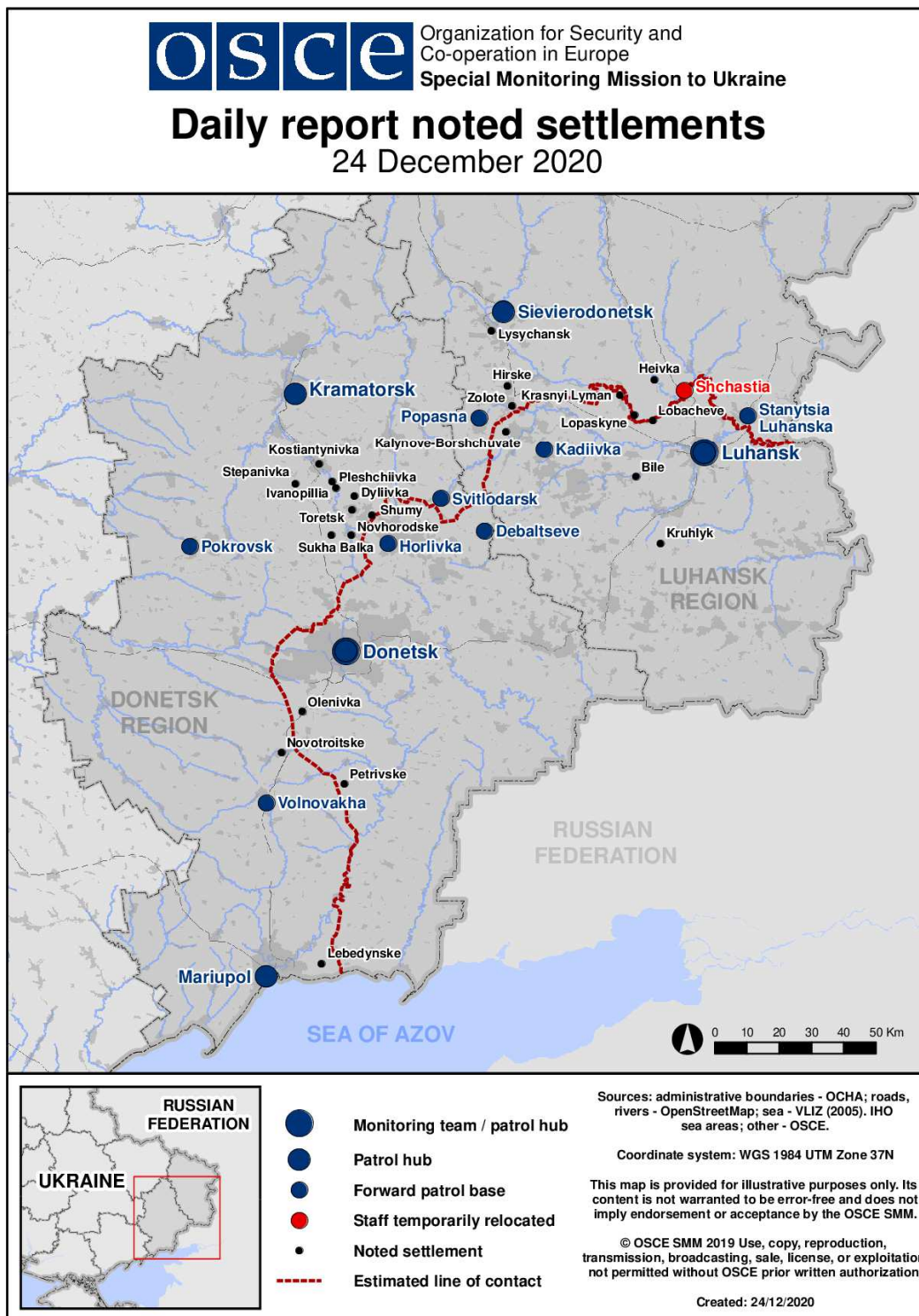
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 23 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 SE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Dec, 20:57
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 21:04
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	200-600m S	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	22-Dec, 21:11
	200-600m S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Dec, 05:57
	200-600m S	Recorded	3	Muzzle flash		N/K	23-Dec, 05:58
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	6-8km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 23:09
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 13:11
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SSE	Heard	30	Shot		Small arms	23-Dec, 09:20-09:30
	2km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 12:01
About 1.5km N of Azarivka (non-government-controlled, 32km SW of Luhansk)	3-4km SE	Heard	7	Burst	Assessed as live-fire exercise	HMG	23-Dec, 11:13-11:15

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).