

Daily Report 307/2020

28 December 2020¹

Summary

- Between the evenings of 23 and 27 December, the SMM recorded 130 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 41 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 23 and 27 December, the SMM recorded 37 ceasefire • violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded seven ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, • Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the latter two areas, SMM long-range and mini-unmanned aerial vehicles spotted people during daytime hours.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at two entry-• exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at three entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk • region, and monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in southern Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two checkpoints of the armed formations near Shevchenko and Zaichenko, Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 27 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.



² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Throughout the entire reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, while the SMM camera at the entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka was not operational on 26 December. Weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras on 24, 25 and 26 December.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24-27 December 2020



In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 23 and 27 December, the Mission recorded 130 ceasefire violations, including 40 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), east-north-east of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the previous reporting period, the SMM recorded 41 ceasefire violations in the region, most of which occurred near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 23 and 27 December, the SMM recorded 37 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north of Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk) and north-west of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk). In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded seven 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 4,659 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,032 explosions, 472 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 43 illumination flares and at least 2,051 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 24, 25, 26 and 27 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), on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 24 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (governmentcontrolled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, north of the railway track, about 200m west-south-west of the area's north-eastern corner.

On 24, 25, 26 and 27 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission 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. On 24 and 27 December, the Mission also saw two people in medical protective gear walking into the area to the same location and then returning.

During the day on 24 December, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (nongovernment-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the armed formations, about 300m north-north-west of the area's southeastern corner.

On 24 December, while positioned 25m west-north-west of the north-eastern corner of the area, the SMM observed a man in military-type clothing with an assault rifle (AK-type) on road C051532, walking from the direction of Petrivske towards Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk). On the same day, the Mission also saw a vehicle with one man in military-type clothing driving on the aforementioned road from the direction of Petrivske, stopping near the SMM's position and then returning.

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 25 December, while positioned 1.8km north of Petrivske, the SMM observed two vehicles (with two men and three men, respectively, in military-type clothing, in their fifties) and two military-type trucks (with two men and three men, respectively, in military-type clothing, in their fifties), all moving from the direction of Petrivske towards Styla (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk). On the same day, while positioned near the north-eastern corner of the area, the SMM saw a visibly armed man in military-type clothing walking from the direction of Viktorivka towards Petrivske.

On 26 December, while positioned at three locations near the area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

On 27 December, while positioned 1.8km north of Petrivske, the SMM observed two vehicles (with one man and two men and one woman, respectively, in military-type clothing) and two visibly armed members of the armed formations, coming from the direction of Petrivske towards Styla. On the same day, while positioned near the north-eastern corner of the area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations walking in a north-westerly direction on road C051532 from the direction of Petrivske and then returning.

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.

On 24 December, beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas, the SMM saw weapons on both sides of contact line in Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The Mission observed 21 armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the line of contact in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in residential areas (for further information, see the table below).

On 24 December, on the southern side of road H-15 leading from the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), about 3.5km south-west of Dubrivka (non-government-controlled, 7km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM saw about 20 members of the armed formations inside an open air polygon, conducting activities assessed as preparations for a live-fire exercise. Such exercises are in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone (for previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 3 December 2020</u>).

SMM facilitation of the operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 24, 25, 26 and 27 December, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the repair and operation of critical civilian infrastructure, including the 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 pipeline near

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

Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk) and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

On all four days of the reporting period, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at three locations near the DFS on 24 December, and at one location on 26 December, the SMM recorded 30 ceasefire violations (including 15 undetermined explosions) and two ceasefire violations (both undetermined explosions), respectively. All 17 of the undetermined explosions were recorded within a 5km radius of the station, during the time a convoy with DFS workers was driving towards Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) on road M-04.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, on 24 December, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets was closed.

On 25 December, the SMM noted that the EECP near Novotroitske and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km southwest of Donetsk) were operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

On 25 and 26 December, the Mission observed that the EECP near Marinka (governmentcontrolled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic, and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets was closed.

In Luhansk region, on 24, 25, 26 and 27 December, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, and on 26 December it also noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. On all four days of the reporting period, the Mission saw a golf cart operating between the EECP and the repaired section of the bridge.

On all four days of the reporting period, 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.

On 24 and 25 December, about 20m north of the latter checkpoint, the SMM observed workers carrying out various works, including installing metal roadside barriers, installing road traffic signs at a road barrier and checking electrical cables.

Border areas outside government control

On 25 December, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission observed two cars (including one with "DPR" plates) and a bus with "DPR" plates with about 50 passengers (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. The SMM also observed four cars (including three with "DPR" plates), a bus with "DPR" plates

with about 35 passengers (mixed genders and ages) and a covered cargo truck with "DPR" plates exiting Ukraine.

On 25 December, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed five cars, three buses and 50 trucks queuing to exit Ukraine.

On 25 December, the SMM also monitored border areas outside government control near Tarany (74km east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

On 27 December, while at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 45 minutes, the Mission observed eight cars (including five with "LPR" plates), a truck, two buses with "LPR" plates with about 25-35 passengers (mixed genders and ages) each and about 28 people (mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. The SMM also observed 16 cars (including eight with "LPR" plates) and about 24 people (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

Security situation in southern Kherson region

On 25 and 26 December, the SMM observed a calm situation at checkpoints near Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Kalanchak (67 km south-east of Kherson), as well as in areas near Skadovsk (62km south-east of Kherson), Lazurne (62km south of Kherson) and Zaliznyi Port (62km south-west of Kherson), along the Black Sea coast.

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, 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 <u>SMM Daily Report 15</u> <u>December 2020</u>). 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:

- On 26 December, at a checkpoint of the armed formations east-north-east of Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage towards Sakhanka (non-government-controlled, 97km south of Donetsk) citing "ongoing engineering works in the area".
- On 26 December, while positioned on the north-western edge of Zaichenko (nongovernment-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations

denied the Mission passage towards Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-governmentcontrolled, 92km south of Donetsk), citing a need for authorization from those in control, and escorted the Mission away from 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:

- On 24 December, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between non-government-controlled Lozove (52km north-east of Donetsk) and Vuhliar (20km east of Donetsk), as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between government-controlled Illinivka (formerly Illicha, 56km north of Donetsk) and Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk), between Siversk (government-controlled, 99km north of Donetsk) and Mospyne (non-government-controlled, 24km south-east of Donetsk), and between non-government-controlled Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk) and Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk).
- On 25 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).
- On 27 December, an SMM mid-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 30km north-east of Donetsk).⁷

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

Table of weapons

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Source of observation						
Government-controlled areas									
24/12/2020	1Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 Tungushka)		In a military compound near Spirne (96km north of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV					
	2	Self-propelled mortar (2S9 <i>Nona-S</i> , 120mmm)	At a railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north- west of Donetsk)	Patrol					
		Non-governmen	t-controlled areas						
24/12/2020 4 Tank (T-72)		Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV					

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation		
		Government-co	ontrolled areas			
23/12/2020	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Vesele (21km north of Donetsk)			
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)				
	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In antidantial anna in Taritaka (201an			
	2	Modified armoured personnel In residential areas in Troitske (west of Lubansk)		Mini-UAV		
24/12/2020	4	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)				
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	In a compound in Troitske (69km west			
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	of Luhansk)			
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a residential area in Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)			
27/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BTR- 3)	Near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)	Patrol		
		Non-government-	controlled areas			
23/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV		
25/12/2020	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound in Smile (31km north- west of Luhansk)	Patrol		

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

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.5km WNW of Yasynuvata (non- government- controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5-7km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 08:46
SE part of Avdiivka	2-4km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:36
(government- controlled, 17km	2-4km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:37
N of Donetsk)	2-4km SSE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:39
	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 10:40
	1-2km SE	Heard	8	Shot		Small	24-Dec,
	4.51.0314	TT 1			TT 1 / 1 · 1	arms	11:25
About 500m NE of Kamianka	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 08:56
(government- controlled, 20km	4-5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:28
N of Donetsk)	5-6km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:30- 09:32
	5-6km SSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:36
	5-6km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 09:38- 09:40
	3-5km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 10:01
	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 10:18
	4-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 10:41
	2-3km S	Heard	7	Burst		Small arms	24-Dec, 11:19- 11:21
	3-5km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 12:35
	4-6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 12:55
	6-7km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 13:05
	6-7km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 13:14
SW edge of Dachne (non- government-	3-5km N	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 10:12- 10:28
controlled, 47km W of Luhansk)	4-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 11:33

Table of ceasefire violations as of 27 December 2020⁹

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.

1km NE of	6-8km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec,
Khoroshe (non- government- controlled, 36km W of Luhansk)							11:38
N edge of Smile (non-government- controlled, 31km W of Luhansk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 11:31
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash	Also recorded by the SMM cameras near DFS and Oktyabr Mine	N/K	25-Dec, 00:32
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NE to SW (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM cameras near DFS and Oktiabr Mine)	N/K	25-Dec, 00:32
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event, also recorded by the SMM cameras near DFS and Oktyabr Mine)	N/K	25-Dec, 00:32
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration	0.8-1.2km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	24-Dec, 21:08
Station (15km N of Donetsk)	0.8-1.2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	24-Dec, 21:08
	0.8-1.2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 21:08
SMM camera in Krasnohorivka (government- controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera near Marinka)	N/K	25-Dec, 01:50
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine	1-3km WSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	24-Dec, 21:08
(non-government- controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	100-200m ENE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	24-Dec, 22:45
SMM camera 1km SW of	2-4km N	Recorded	28	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	25-Dec, 02:19
Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	25-Dec, 02:39
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Dec, 09:36
SMM camera 1km SW of	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Dec, 21:37

Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Dec, 22:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	25-Dec, 23:37
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 01:30
SE part of Avdiivka	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 09:04
(government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 09:16
Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-	0.8-1km NW	Heard	28	Shot		Small arms	26-Dec, 16:54- 17:04
government- controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	0.8-1km NW	Heard	2	Shot		HMG	26-Dec, 17:23
SMM camera in Chermalyk	3-5km SSE	Recorded	15	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	27-Dec, 04:10
(government- controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SSE	Recorded	3	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	27-Dec, 04:11
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	14	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	26-Dec, 22:00
	2-4km ENE	Recorded	14	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	27-Dec, 04:10
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 22:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 22:49
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 01:30
About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government- controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 12:40



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).