

Daily Report 309/2020

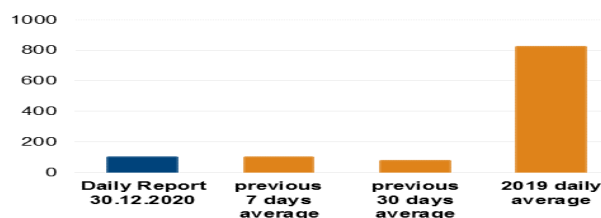
30 December 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 58 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 299 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 37 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in the region.
- A man was injured by an explosion while on a tractor near Kamianka, Donetsk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Inside the area near Zolote, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle spotted people during daytime hours.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a residential area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region and on both sides of the contact line in Luhansk region.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure. The SMM heard 15 undetermined explosions near the Donetsk Filtration Station during and near the time when a convoy of workers was driving from the station to Yasynuvata.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at an entry-exit checkpoint and a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at three entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- 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, 29 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. Throughout the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

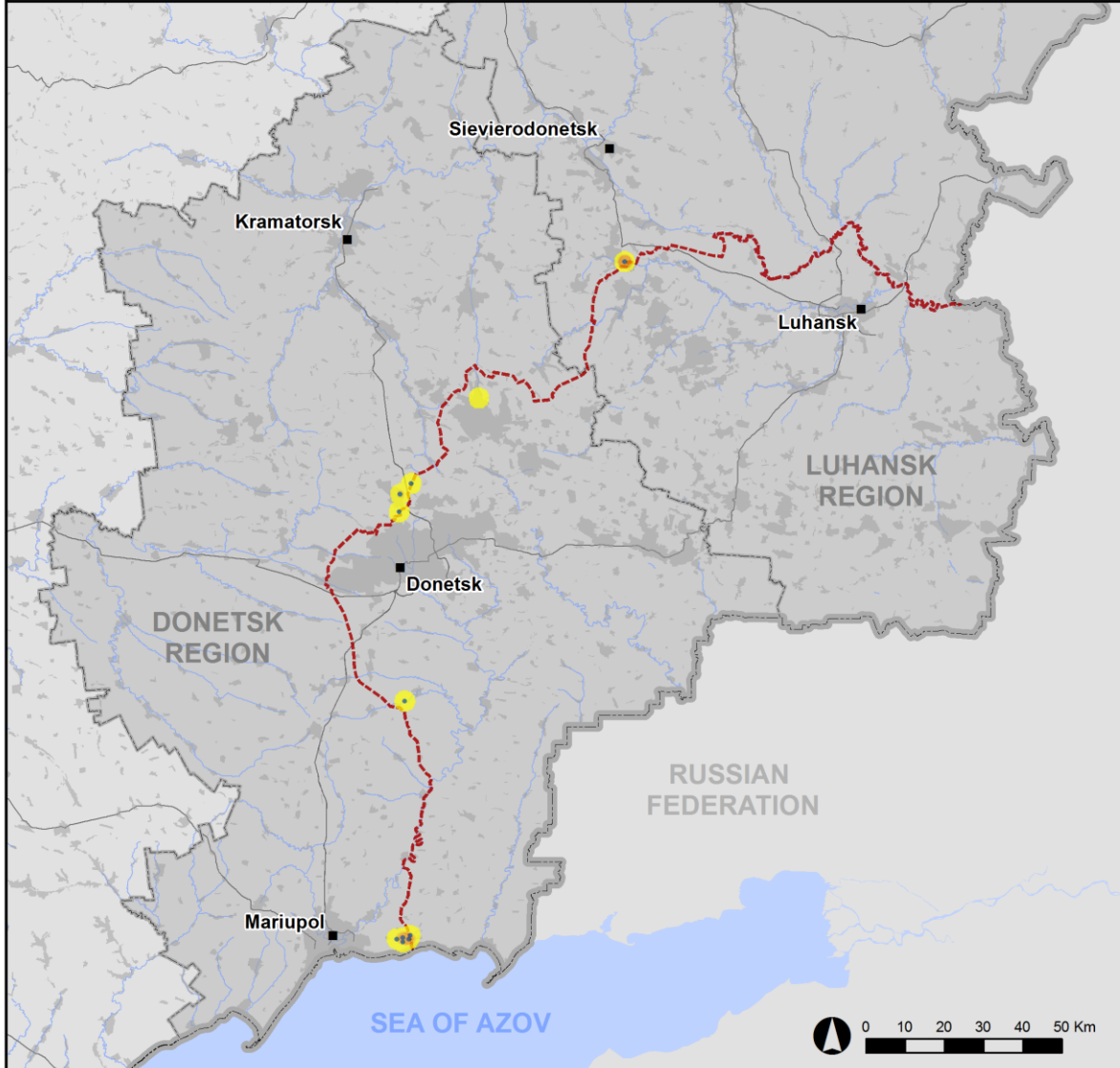
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

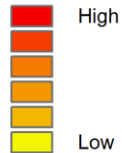


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 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: 30/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 58 ceasefire violations, including 32 explosions (of which 31 were undetermined and one was an impact of an undetermined weapon), most of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 299 ceasefire violations, including 46 explosions, most of which also occurred near Shyrokyne and the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 37 ceasefire violations, including ten undetermined explosions, in an area north of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded two ceasefire violations in the region, both undetermined explosions.

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 5,055 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,122 explosions, 641 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 43 illumination flares and at least 2,188 bursts and shots).

Man injured by an explosion near Kamianka, Donetsk region

The SMM followed up on reports of a man (in his forties) who suffered injuries from an explosion while driving a tractor in a field near Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

On 22 December, a man (in his forties) told the Mission over the phone that on the evening of 20 December, he had been on his tractor in a field near Kamianka when an explosion threw him off it. He said that he had been taken to the hospital in Kostiantynivka (government-controlled, 60km north of Donetsk) with injuries to his face and head. He added that the tractor had been completely burned.

On the same day, medical staff at a hospital in Kostiantynivka told the SMM over the phone that on 20 December, a man (in his forties) had been admitted with shrapnel injuries to his head consistent with those caused by the detonation of an explosive device. She added that the man had been released the same day.

On 23 December, in a field about 1km east-north-east of Kamianka, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a burnt tractor with its driver's side destroyed. The SMM was unable to assess what had caused the damage.

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), south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the day on 28 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range UAV spotted nine people near former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, eight

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

about 650m and one about 550m west-south-west of the area's north-eastern corner. About 150m north of the area's southern edge, the same UAV also spotted three people walking in a northerly direction on road T-1316.

On the evening of 29 December, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded ten undetermined explosions and 27 projectiles in flight, all at an assessed range of 2-4km east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 29 December, while positioned on the southern edge of the disengagement area, the Mission heard an explosion at an assessed range of 6-8km west-north-west, assessed as a controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance (UXO) outside the disengagement area.

On the same day, 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 29 December, on the southern edge of the area, the SMM also saw two stationary pieces of heavy equipment and three workers installing a fence on the eastern edge of the junction of roads T-1316 and the one leading to Zolote 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).

On the same day, about 2km north of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 3-5km north-west, assessed as outside of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** but within 5km of its perimeter.

Anti-tank mines near Shyroka Balka, Donetsk region

On 27 December, in a field about 2km south-west of Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted about 400 anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 10 June 2020](#)).

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 a surface-to-air missile in a government-controlled area and a probable towed howitzer in a non-government controlled area of Donetsk region, as well as 23 multiple launch rocket systems in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw 60 weapons in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the tables below).

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

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles and anti-aircraft guns in government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable operation of critical civilian infrastructure, including the DFS. While positioned at two locations near the station, the SMM recorded 16 undetermined explosions, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS. Fifteen of these occurred during and near times that a convoy with DFS workers was driving from the DFS back to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk) on road M-04.

The SMM also facilitated monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to power lines near a government-controlled area of Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk), the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), as well as demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted 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 at the EECP. The SMM observed a golf cart operating between the repaired section of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission 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.

On the south-eastern edge of the latter checkpoint, the SMM saw ten workers, three of whom were installing fences.

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

On 27 and 28 December, the SMM observed a calm situation at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), along the coast of the Sea of Azov and the shores of Sivash Lake, and in Henichesk (176km east of Kherson) and nearby villages.

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

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 29 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 29 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ 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				
28/12/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	In a residential area of Bobrove (56km north-west of Luhansk) (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report of 12 October 2020)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
27/12/2020	1	Probable towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	Near Stavky (30km north-east of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
28/12/2020	2	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk)(for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report of 24 November 2020)	Long-range UAV
	21		Near Khrustalnyi (formerly Krasnyi Luch, 56km south-west of Luhansk)	

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/12/2020	8	Tank (one type undetermined, one T-72 and six T-64)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of Luhansk), where the same UAV also spotted 40 infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-1) ⁸	
	5	Towed anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
	10	Tank (seven probable T-72 and three type undetermined)	In a training area near Miusynsk (62km south-west of Luhansk), where the same UAV also spotted six armoured personnel carriers (MT-LB) and 22 infantry fighting vehicles (BMP-1) (for previous observations, see SMM Daily Report of 24 November 2020) ⁹	
	4	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>)		
	9	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	12	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

⁸ The infantry fighting vehicles mentioned in this table are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

⁹ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this table are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/12/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Troitske (30km north of Donetsk)	Mid-range UAV
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)	Near Novhorodske (35km north of Donetsk)	
	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (one BMP-2 and two BMP-1)		
28/12/2020	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle	In a compound in Zaitseve (62km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a compound in Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	In a residential area in Svitlodarsk (57km north-east of Donetsk)	

¹⁰ 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 29 December 2020¹¹

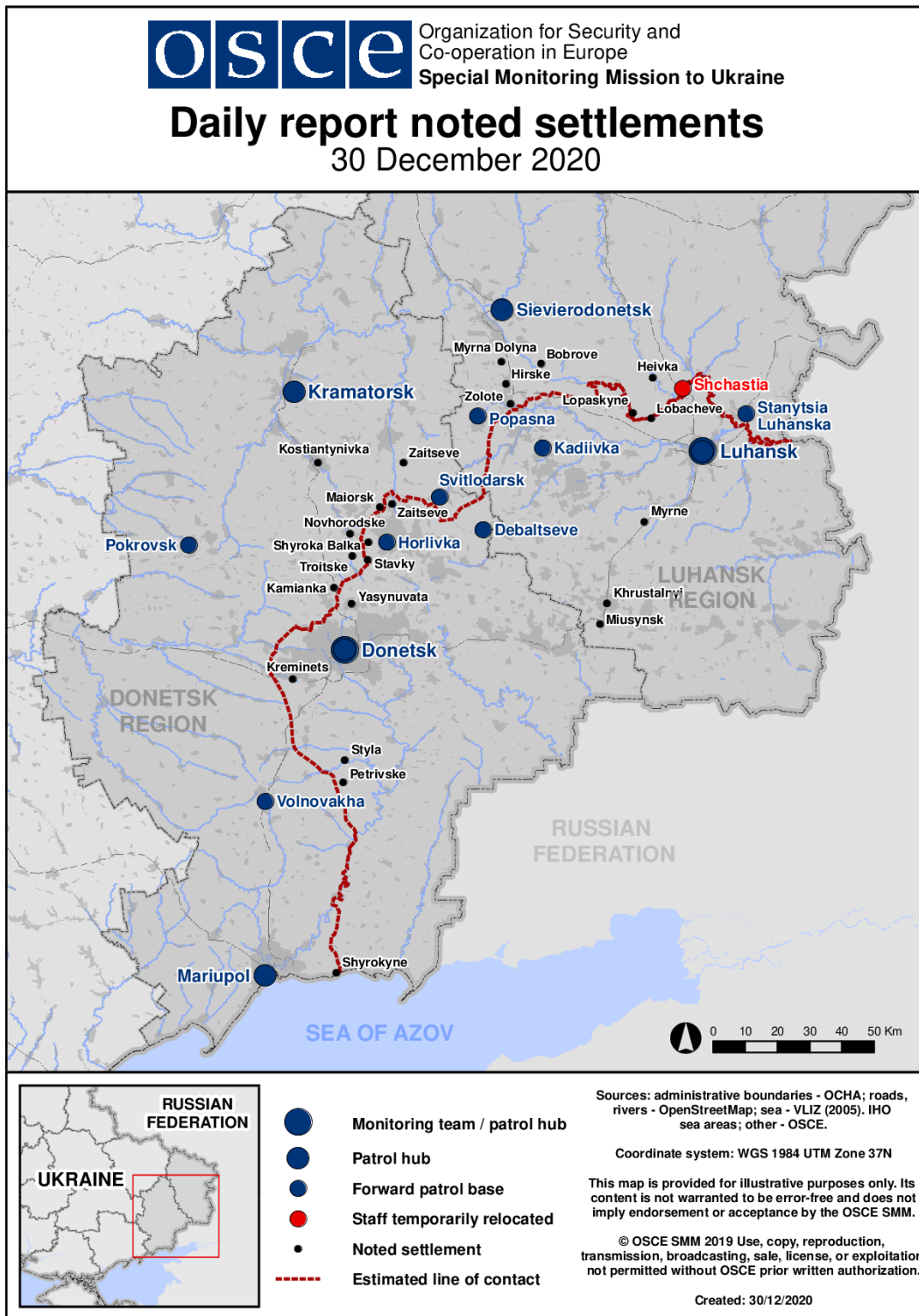
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:45
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:48
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:50
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:51
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:52
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:52
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:53
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	29-Dec, 16:56
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	29-Dec, 16:56
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:58
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 16:59
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 16:59
	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 17:02
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	29-Dec, 17:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	29-Dec, 17:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 17:03
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 17:05
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 17:06
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion		N/K	29-Dec, 17:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	29-Dec, 17:07
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	29-Dec, 17:07
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	29-Dec, 17:07
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 17:10
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 17:12
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	29-Dec, 17:13
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	6	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	29-Dec, 17:13
	SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K
2-4km E		Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:31
2-4km E		Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:32

¹¹ 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.

2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:34
2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:35
2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:36
2-4km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:48
2-4km E	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:48
2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:52
2-4km E	Recorded	4	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:53
2-4km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:53
2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:54
2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:54
2-4km E	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:56
2-4km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 18:56
2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:56

	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, assessed as outside the disengagement area	N/K	29-Dec, 18:57
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	5km WNW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:13-13:21
	5km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:27
	5km WNW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:30
	5km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:33
	5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:37
	5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 13:44
About 1.8km N of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Dec, 12:02
About 6km NW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km E	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	29-Dec, 15:18
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Dec, 10:41

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹²



¹² 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).