



Daily Report 1/2021

4 January 2021¹

Summary

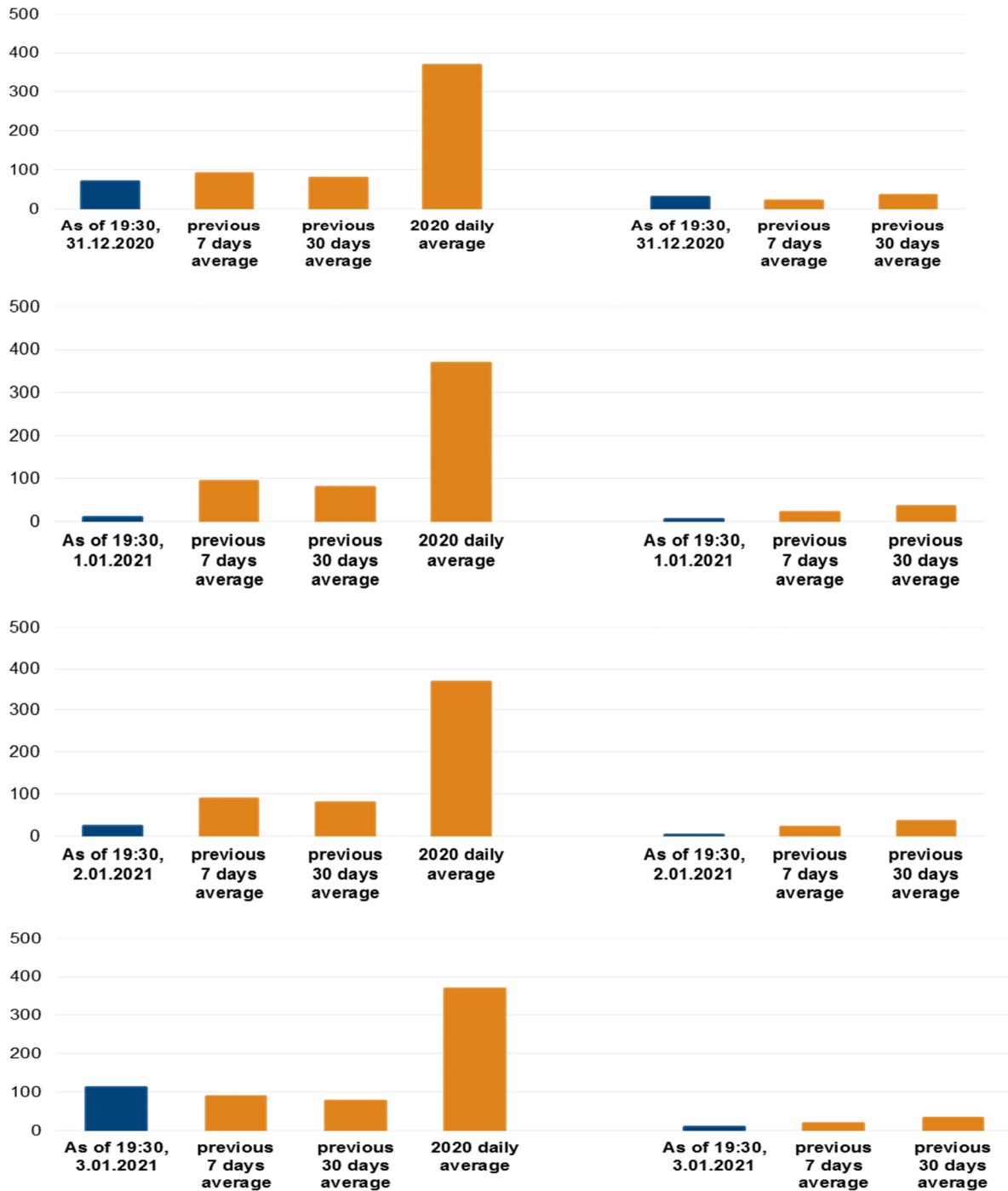
- Between the evenings of 30 December 2020 and 3 January 2021, the SMM recorded 145 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and 68 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. On 1 January, it recorded three shots of small-arms fire inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. On 1 and 3 January, the Mission heard nine ceasefire violations close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) during and near times when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the station and back to Yasynuvata.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk region.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points outside government control and monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation in Donetsk region.
- The SMM observed a calm situation in south-eastern Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at and near a checkpoint of the armed formations near Shevchenko, southern Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 3 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



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 cameras near Hnutove on 31 December 2020 and in Zolote on 1, 2 and 3 January 2021 were also not operational. Weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of most of the other SMM cameras throughout the reporting period.

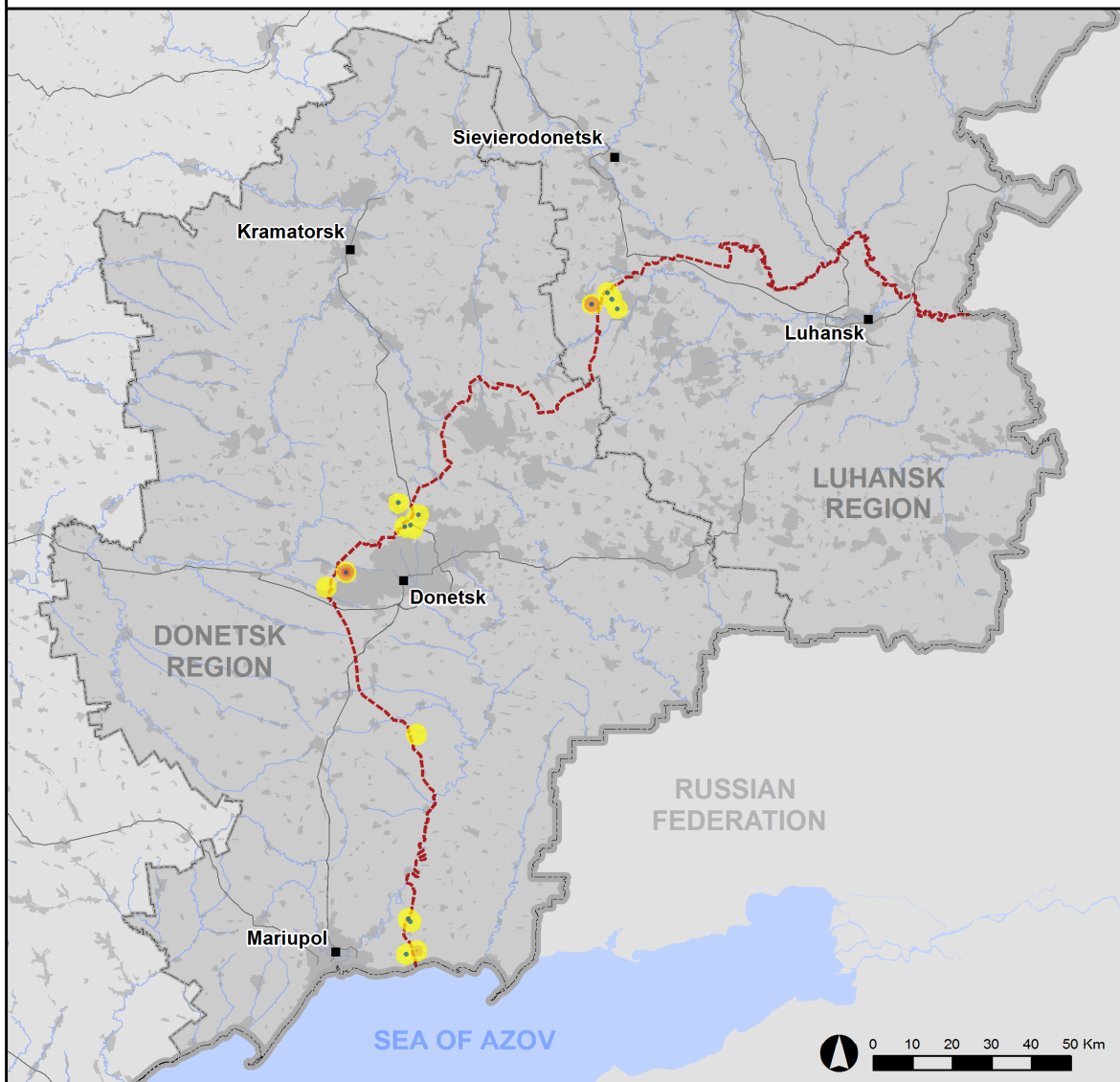
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 31 December 2020 - 3 January 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low
- 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: 04/01/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 30 December 2020 and 3 January 2021, the Mission recorded 145 ceasefire violations, including 18 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas south-west of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) during the day on 3 January and in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region.⁵

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 30 December 2020 and 3 January 2021, the SMM recorded 68 ceasefire violations (all on 30 and 31 December and 1 January), including 28 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) on the evening of 30 December. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 26 ceasefire violations in the region.⁶

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 5,314 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,175 explosions, 665 projectiles in flight, 61 muzzle flashes, 51 illumination flares and at least 2,362 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁷

On all days of the reporting period, 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) and south of it.

While positioned on the southern edge of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions on 31 December and an undetermined explosion on 1 January, all assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

On all days of the reporting period, 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 1 January, the Mission also saw three people in medical protective gear in an ambulance entering the area and then returning.

On 31 December, outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), while positioned on the western edge of the same settlement, the Mission saw a vehicle with one man in military-type clothing inside it, driving west on the road towards Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk).

On 1 January, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the SMM heard three shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 0.5-1km south, assessed as inside the disengagement area. The last ceasefire violation inside the area was recorded on 18 August 2020.

⁵ The previous reporting period covered the time between the evenings of 29 December and 30 December 2020.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ 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 on 2 January and at four locations on 3 January, the SMM 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.

Weapons permanent storage sites

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

3 January

The SMM noted that all weapons previously observed at the site were present.

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

The Mission observed seven armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including one seen in a residential area (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On all days of the reporting period, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned at the same location near the station on 31 December and 1 January, the SMM heard two and three undetermined explosions, respectively. On 3 January, while positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM heard four undetermined explosions and two shots of small-arms fire. All these ceasefire violations were recorded within a 5km radius of the DFS. The ceasefire violations recorded on 1 and 3 January occurred during and near times when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards the station and back to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

On 2 January, the SMM saw three trucks with lifts mounted on them and about 13 workers conducting repairs to the electricity pylons on road M-04, about 1.5km east-north-east of the DFS.

On 3 January, the SMM monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and near Naberezhne (non-government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) to facilitate emergency repairs to electrical infrastructure.

On 31 December, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable 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).

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

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

Throughout the reporting period, the SMM continued to monitor the situation at entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) and corresponding checkpoints in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

In Donetsk region, on 1 January, the Mission observed that the 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 traffic passing through in both directions. It also noted that the checkpoint was closed on 31 December.

In Luhansk region, on 31 December and 1, 2 and 3 January, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, and it also noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge was operational on 31 December, with pedestrians passing through in both directions. On 31 December, the SMM saw a truck transporting a metal booth (reportedly to be used by a local humanitarian organization) entering the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska and eight workers unloading and installing the booth on the western edge of the road, about 60m south of the area's northern edge.

On all days of the reporting period, 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.

Border areas outside government control

On 31 December, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about two hours, the Mission observed 34 cars (including 14 with "DPR" plates), a bus with "DPR" plates (with 45 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 74 civilians (34 women and 38 men, mixed ages, and two children) entering Ukraine. It also saw 12 cars (including eight with "DPR" plates), a covered cargo truck, a bus (with 30 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and 35 pedestrians (11 women and 18 men, mixed ages, and six children) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, while at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM saw four pedestrians (one woman in her fifties and three men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine.

On 31 December, the Mission monitored border areas near Amvroziivka (56km south-east of Donetsk), Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk) and Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk), where it observed a calm situation.

Security situation in south-eastern Kherson region

On 3 January, 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 Khorly (80km south-east of Kherson) and Druzheliubivka (121km 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, 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 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.

Denial:

- On 2 January, at a checkpoint of the armed formations about 800m east-north-east of Shevchenko (non-government-controlled, 69km south of Donetsk), two armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage westward, citing “orders from superiors” and military-type activities in the area.
- On the same day, about 800m south-south-west of the same checkpoint, two members of the armed formations in a car stopped the SMM and denied it passage southward, citing “demining activities in the area” (see also *Conditional* below).
- Later on the same day, about 2.5km north of the abovementioned checkpoint, the same two members of the armed formations in a car stopped the SMM again, denied it passage westward and told the Mission to leave the area. The two members of the armed formations followed the SMM for about 3km north in their car, where they stopped and let the Mission proceed to non-government-controlled Donetsk city.

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.

Conditional:

- On 2 January, about 800m west-south-west of the checkpoint of the armed formations near Shevchenko (see above), two members of the armed formations (in a car) allowed the SMM to proceed only in a northerly direction.

Other impediments:

- On 1 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near government-controlled Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk) and Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk).⁹

⁹ 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 zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
31/12/2020	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	
3/1/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-D)	In the yard of a residential building in Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Novoselivka Druha (23km north of Donetsk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)		

¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

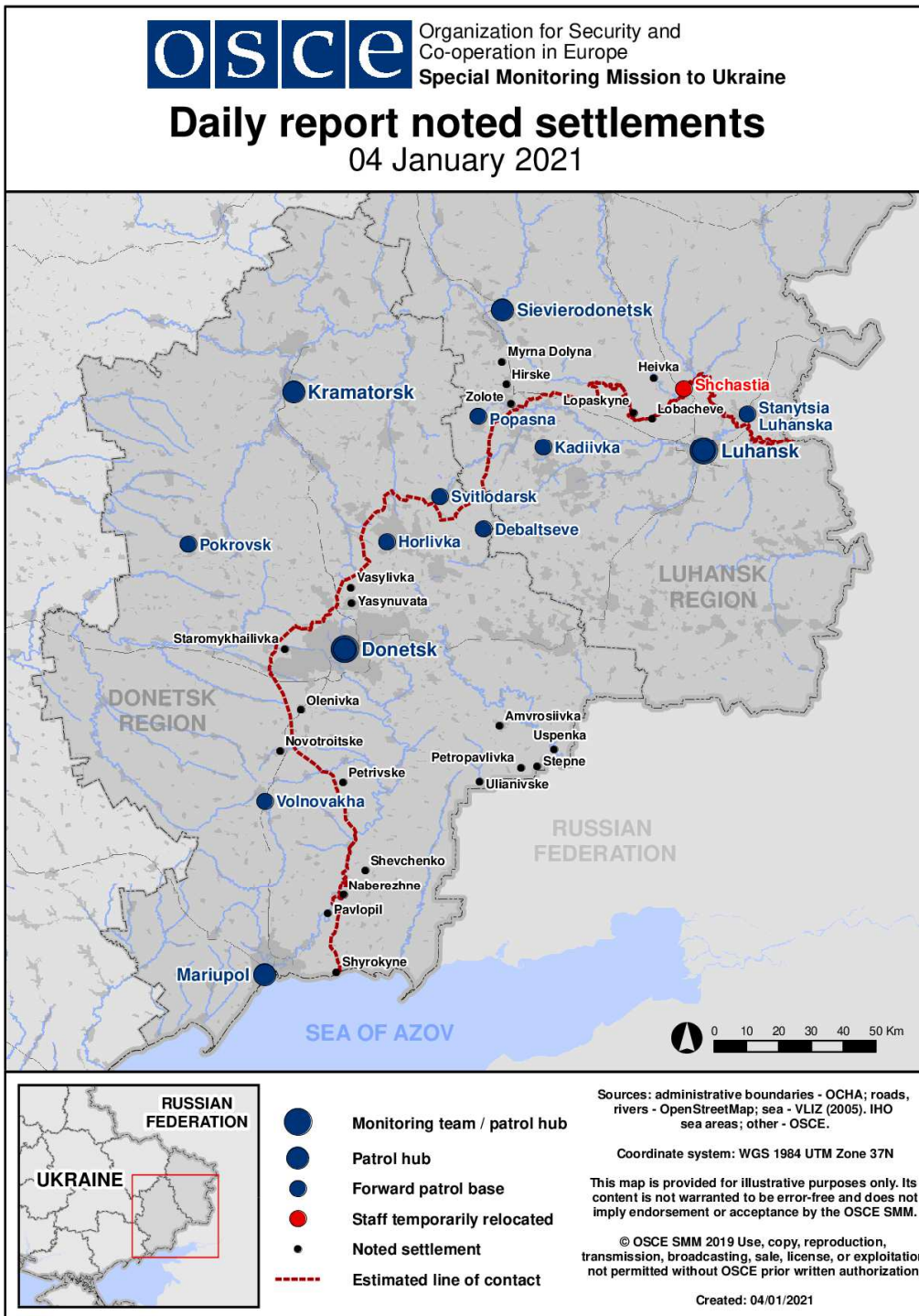
Table of ceasefire violations as of 3 January 2021¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 2km S of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Dec, 12:17
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-7km SSE	Heard	24	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Dec, 20:10-22:23
	4-7km SSE	Heard	40	Burst		N/K	30-Dec, 20:10-22:23
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement Zolote area)	N/K	31-Dec, 10:10
	4-6km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	31-Dec, 11:31
About 1.5km ESE of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km W of Luhansk)	9-10km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Dec, 12:09
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Jan, 17:09
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Jan, 09:28
W edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	0.5-1km S	Heard	3	Shot	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	Small arms	1-Jan, 11:56-12:01
About 3km north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-6km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	1-Jan, 10:19
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:22
	3-5km S	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:49

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.

SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Jan, 21:26
	4-6km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Jan, 22:51
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:23
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:26
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:27
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	2-Jan, 18:29
Uzhivka (formerly Leninske, non-government-controlled, 96km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	14	Burst		Small arms	2-Jan, 11:29
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 17:59
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 18:03
About 400m ENE of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	1km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 11:48-11:52
	1km SW	Heard and saw	100	Shots and bursts		HMG	3-Jan, 11:48-11:52
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-3km SW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	3-Jan, 13:35-13:39
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 13:40-13:42
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 13:40
	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	3-Jan, 13:41

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).