



Daily Report 4/2021

8 January 2021¹

Summary

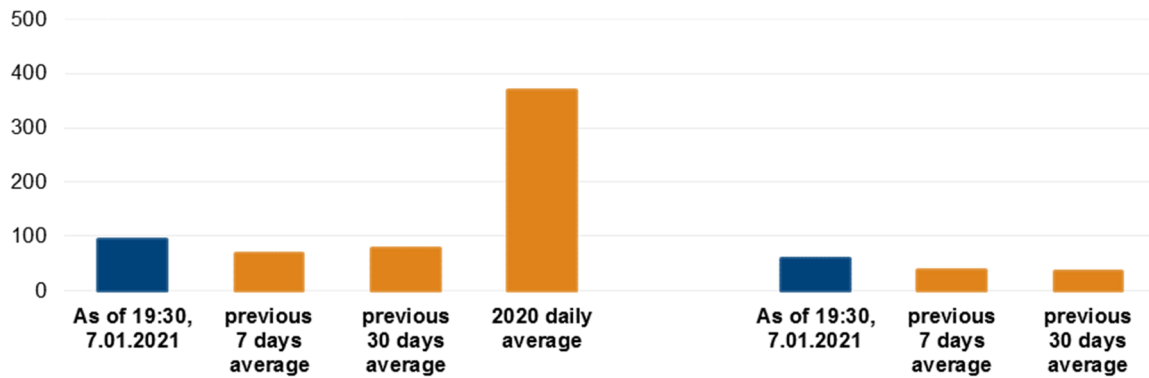
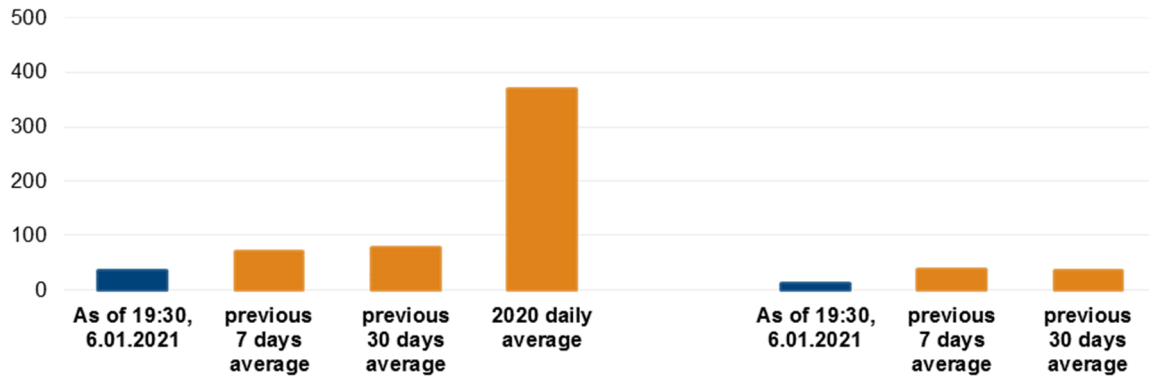
- Between the evenings of 5 and 7 January, the SMM recorded 57 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded ten ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 5 and 7 January, the Mission recorded 71 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 208 ceasefire violations in the region.
- A boy was injured by the detonation of an explosive device in Blahodatne, Donetsk region.
- The Mission corroborated damage to an inhabited house on 29 December 2020 due to small-arms fire in Zolote-4/Rodina, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction, repairs, assessment and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- 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's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 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. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of most of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

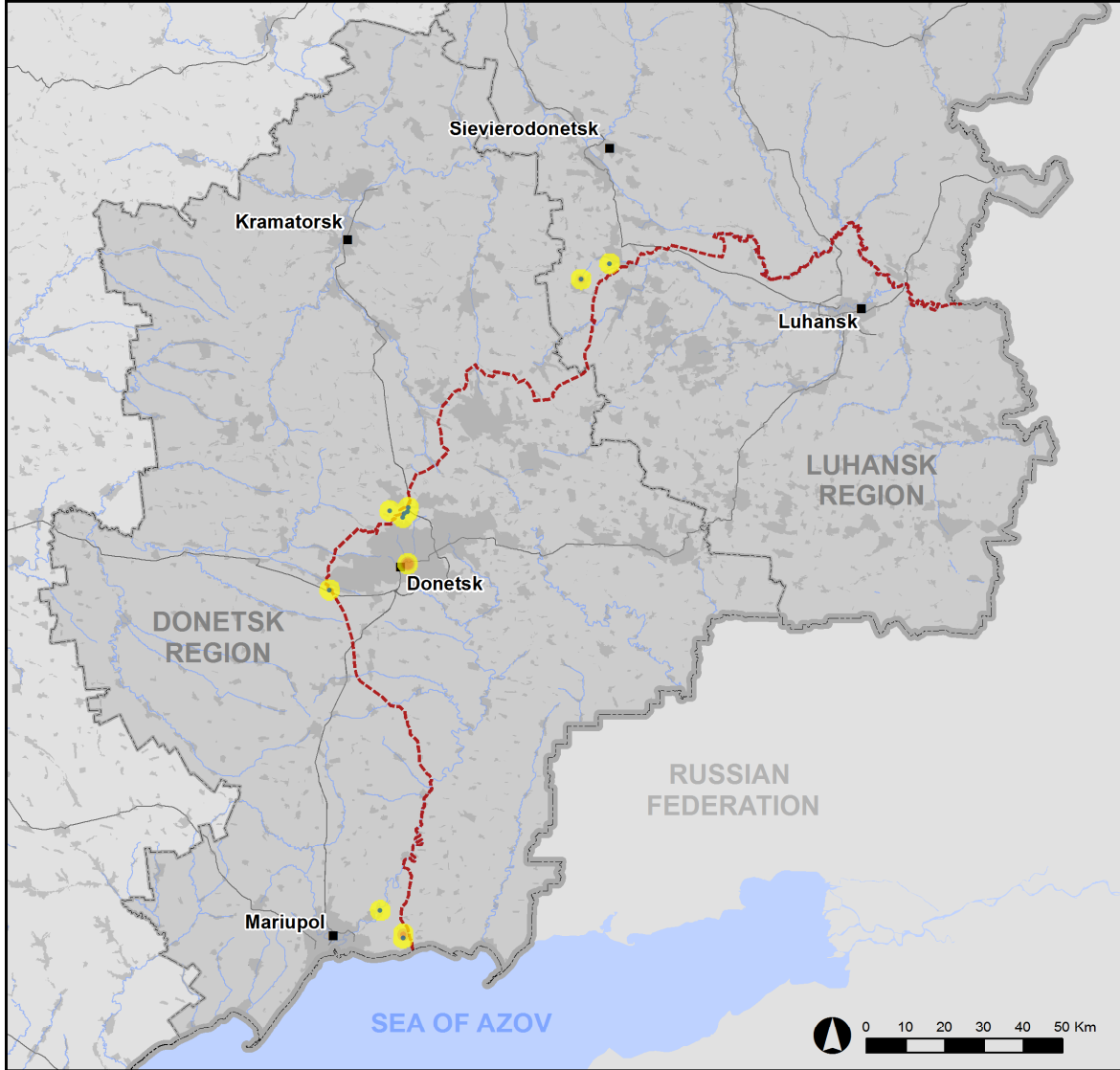
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

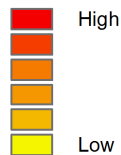


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 6-7 January 2021



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: 08/01/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 January, the Mission recorded 57 ceasefire violations, including 13 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in southern parts of Donetsk city (non-government-controlled) on the evening of 6 January (all shots and burst of small-arms fire) and north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) on the evening of 5 January. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 5 and 7 January, the SMM recorded 71 ceasefire violations, including 58 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas south-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) on the afternoon of 7 January. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 208 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 5,668 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,450 explosions, 678 projectiles in flight, 63 muzzle flashes, 53 illumination flares and at least 2,424 bursts and shots).

Boy injured by detonation of explosive device in Blahodatne, Donetsk region

The Mission followed up on reports of a 16-year-old boy, injured due to the detonation of an explosive device on 3 January in Blahodatne (formerly Oktiabr, government-controlled, 77km west of Donetsk).

On 5 January, medical staff at a hospital in Velyka Novosilka (government-controlled, 74km west of Donetsk) told the SMM that a boy had been admitted on 3 January with injuries to his leg and arm consistent with those caused by an explosion and had been transferred to a hospital in Mariupol (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk) upon receiving treatment.

On 6 January, the boy's father (age unknown) told the SMM over the phone that on 3 January, his son had suffered shrapnel injuries to his leg and arm after the boy had taken home and tried to disassemble an object he had found in a dumpster. On the same day, the head of social services in Velyka Novosilka (woman, age unknown) told the SMM that on 3 January, the boy had found a small sealed metal pipe in Blahodatne and that the boy had been injured while trying to disassemble it.

Inhabited house damaged due to small-arms fire in Zolote-4/Rodina, Luhansk region

The Mission followed up on reports of damage to an inhabited house in Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 59km west of Luhansk) on 29 December 2020.

On 6 January, at 7/2 Zatyshna Street in Zolote-4/Rodina, the Mission saw a hole (4cm in diameter) in the pane of an east-facing window on the ground floor of a two-storey house. Inside the house, it saw another hole (4cm in diameter) in the wall opposite the aforementioned window. The SMM assessed the damage as fresh and caused by small-arms fire. A couple (man and woman in their fifties), who introduced themselves as the owners of the house, told the Mission that around 07:00 on 30 December, they had noticed the damage, which had not been there on 29 December. The woman said that on the evening of 29 December, she had been at home (with her husband and 12-year-old granddaughter) when she heard shooting nearby.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 6 and 7 January, the SMM saw 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).

On 6 and 7 January, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom on 6 January walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 7 January, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On 6 January, while positioned about 80m west-north-west of the north-eastern corner of the area, the Mission saw a civilian car with two members of the armed formations inside driving west towards the SMM from the direction of Petrivske. The car approached the Mission, and the two men told it that they could not ensure its safety beyond the SMM camera site on the western edge of Petrivske due to the presence of mines on both sides of road C-051532.

On the same day, about 10m north-east of the area’s north-eastern corner, the SMM observed for the first time a mine sign (red rectangle with skull and crossbones and “Stop, Mine!” and “Danger, Mines” written on it in Russian and English) on the northern edge of road C-051532.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM spotted three tanks near a training area near Pokrovka (non-government-controlled, 36km east of Donetsk) (see the table below).

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

The Mission observed an armoured personnel carrier in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (see the table below).

Presence of anti-tank mines in Popasna, Luhansk region

On 7 January, at a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the eastern edge of Popasna, the SMM observed a Ukrainian Armed Forces soldier attaching three anti-tank mines to a wooden plank, and another three anti-tank mines lying on a brick barrier nearby.

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

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

On a paved road about 500m west-south-west of the checkpoint, the Mission saw for the first time an object assessed as a cannon (30mm) round that appeared to have been placed in an upright position, resting on its percussion cap.

SMM facilitation of construction, repairs and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

On 6 and 7 January, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned near the station on 6 January, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions within a 5km radius of the DFS. These ceasefire violations occurred near times when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 from the station back to Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk). On both days of the reporting period, the SMM also monitored the security situation near the pumping station close to Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

On 6 January, 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); routine and emergency repairs to water infrastructure near government-controlled Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, 40km north-east of Donetsk) and Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk), respectively; and demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

On 7 January, the SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable the assessment of road T-1316 inside the disengagement area near Zolote. The Mission observed a group including two officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) and two members of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) conducting an assessment of the road between the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) (about 300m north of the disengagement area) and the railway bridge, about 1km south of the area's northern edge.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 6 January, in Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic during its presence.

On 6 and 7 January, in Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians passing through in both directions.

On both days, the Mission also 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 6 January, while driving by a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed 40 cars (licence plates not visible) and about 20 people (mixed genders and ages) queuing to exit Ukraine.

On 7 January, while at a border crossing point near Ulianiivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission did not observe any cars or pedestrians entering or exiting Ukraine.

The SMM monitored border areas near Manych (76km east of Donetsk) on 6 January and Kumachove (55km south-east of Donetsk), Novoivanivka (57km south-east of Donetsk), Kuznetsovo-Mykhailivka (67km south-east of Donetsk), Svobodne (73km south of Donetsk), Konkove (79km south of Donetsk), Oleksandrivske (formerly Oktiabrsk, 82km south of Donetsk), Bessarabka (85km south of Donetsk), Samiilove (89km south of Donetsk), Kovske (91km south of Donetsk) and Markyne (94km south of Donetsk) on 7 January, and observed a calm situation everywhere.

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 Minsk agreements 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 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 7 January, an SMM mini- unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) twice 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 caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near non-government-controlled Samiilove (89km south of Donetsk) and near Oleksandrivske (formerly Oktiabrsk, 82km south of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
6/1/2021	3	Tank (type undetermined)	Near a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
6/1/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novozvanivka (70km 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.

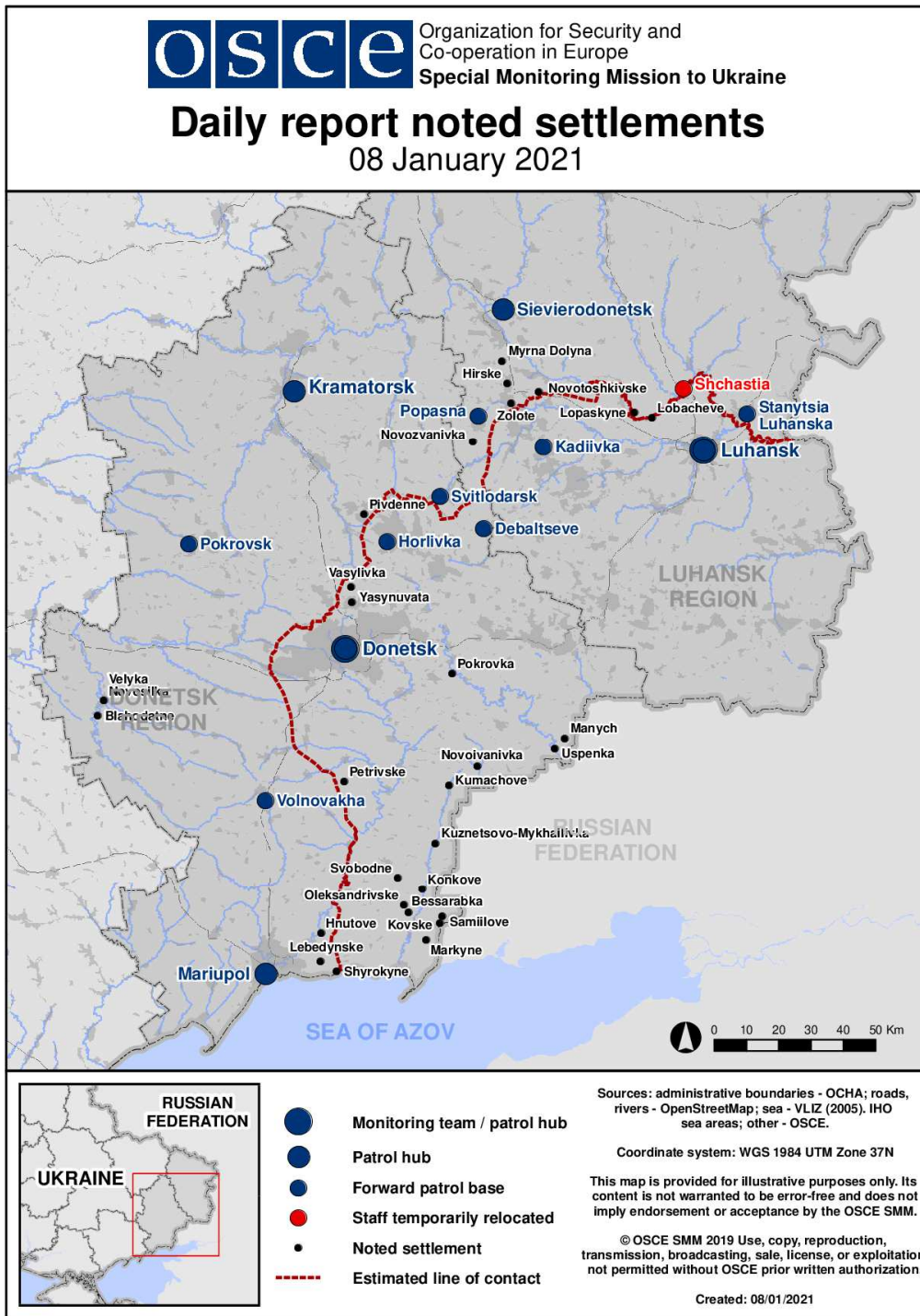
Table of ceasefire violations as of 7 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 19:07
	5km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 19:19
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 19:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 20:01
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	5-Jan, 22:15
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Jan, 22:17
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Jan, 22:18
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Jan, 13:20-13:21
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Jan, 13:45
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Jan, 13:45
About 600m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	6-8km NNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Jan, 12:41
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	8	Shot	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 22:23
	1-2km SSE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Jan, 22:30
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the DFS camera)	N/K	7-Jan, 16:42
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	7-Jan, 18:58
Donetsk city centre (non-government-controlled)	1-2km S	Heard	28	Shot		Small arms	6-Jan, 19:44-19:46
	1-2km S	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	6-Jan, 19:45
Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jan, 11:42
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	10-12km SSE	Heard	21	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jan, 14:54-14:58
	3-5km SSE	Heard	35	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Jan, 15:09-16:10

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 SSE	Heard	5	Burst	Undetermined	HMG	7-Jan, 16:00-16:02
Kadiivka (non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	15-20km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area)	N/K	7-Jan, 16:07

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).