

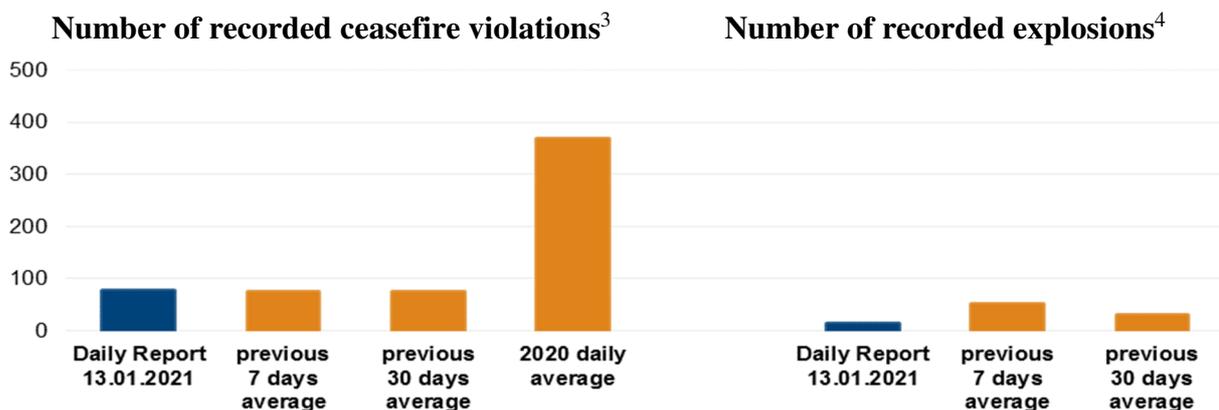
Daily Report 8/2021

13 January 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 76 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded six ceasefire violations in the region.
- Gunfire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Lebiazhe, Donetsk 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 repairs, construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at entry-exit checkpoints and checkpoints of the armed formations, all in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 12 January 2021. 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, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

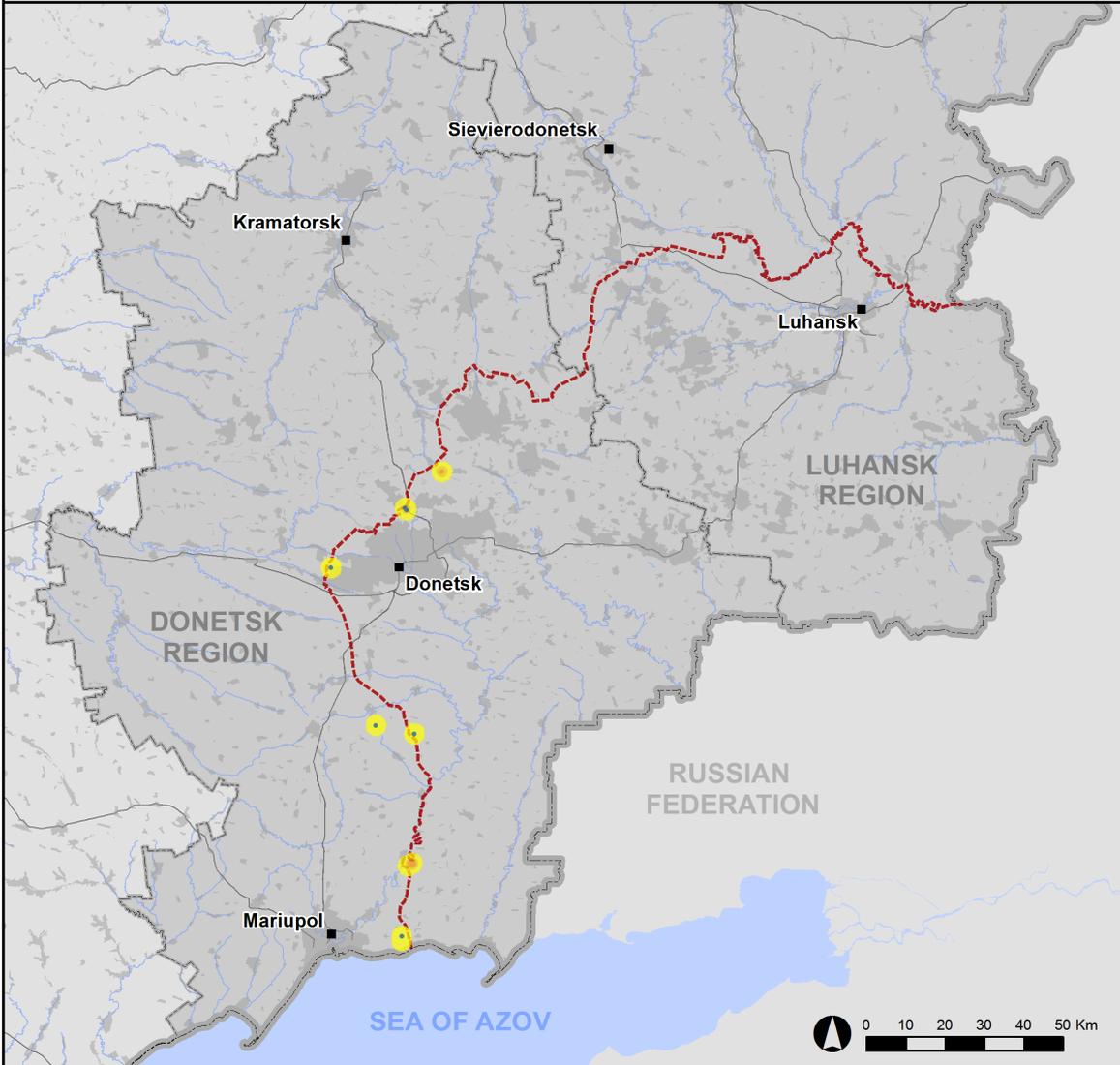
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

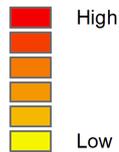


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 12 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: 13/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 76 ceasefire violations, including 14 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) (see below) and in areas south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded six 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 5,912 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,553 explosions, 711 projectiles in flight, 79 muzzle flashes, 54 illumination flares and at least 2,515 bursts and shots).

Gunfire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Lebiazhe, Donetsk region

While positioned about 2km west of Lebiazhe to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard 17 bursts of heavy-machine-gun and 15 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km north, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.5km north-north-east of its position. The SMM safely landed the UAV and remained in the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 12 January, the SMM saw 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).

On 11 January, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), on the eastern edge of road T-1316, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a road roller and an excavating machine, as well as four workers erecting a wire fence around a small area on the south-east corner. On 12 January, near the same checkpoint, the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

While positioned about 2km north of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission heard two undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 5-7km south-east, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) but within 5km of its periphery.

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

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.

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

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

Presence of impact craters near Vodiane and Pikuzy, Donetsk region

On 11 January, about 1km east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk) an SMM mid-range UAV spotted about 80 probable impact craters assessed as caused by 82mm and 120mm mortar rounds, near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. About 1km south-south-west of Pikuzy (formerly Kominternove, non-government-controlled, 92km south of Donetsk), the UAV also spotted about 20 probable impact craters, assessed as caused by 82mm and 120mm mortar rounds, near positions of the armed formations. All of the craters were spotted for the first time and were not visible in imagery from 2 September 2020.

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk). While positioned in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM recorded 11 ceasefire violations in areas south-east of the DFS, including six undetermined explosions, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction of power lines between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk), and demining activities near government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

The SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. It also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP. The Mission continued to note that three out of five corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations (four in Donetsk and one in Luhansk) remained closed, with the exception of the one south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, which remains open daily, and the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), which the Mission has seen open twice a week (Mondays and Fridays).

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

The Mission again noted that the EECs 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 were not operational.

At the latter checkpoint, the SMM observed four workers welding a metal structure on top of concrete blocks.

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 11 January, the SMM observed a calm situation at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km 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 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 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 12 January 2021](#)). 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:

- While conducting a mini-UAV flight near Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission heard 32 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun and small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above).
- Staff at a school in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk) refused the SMM access to the school premises to follow up on alleged damage without permission from those in control.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
11/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (probable BMP-2)	Near Troitske (69km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle		
12/1/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)	In a residential area in Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

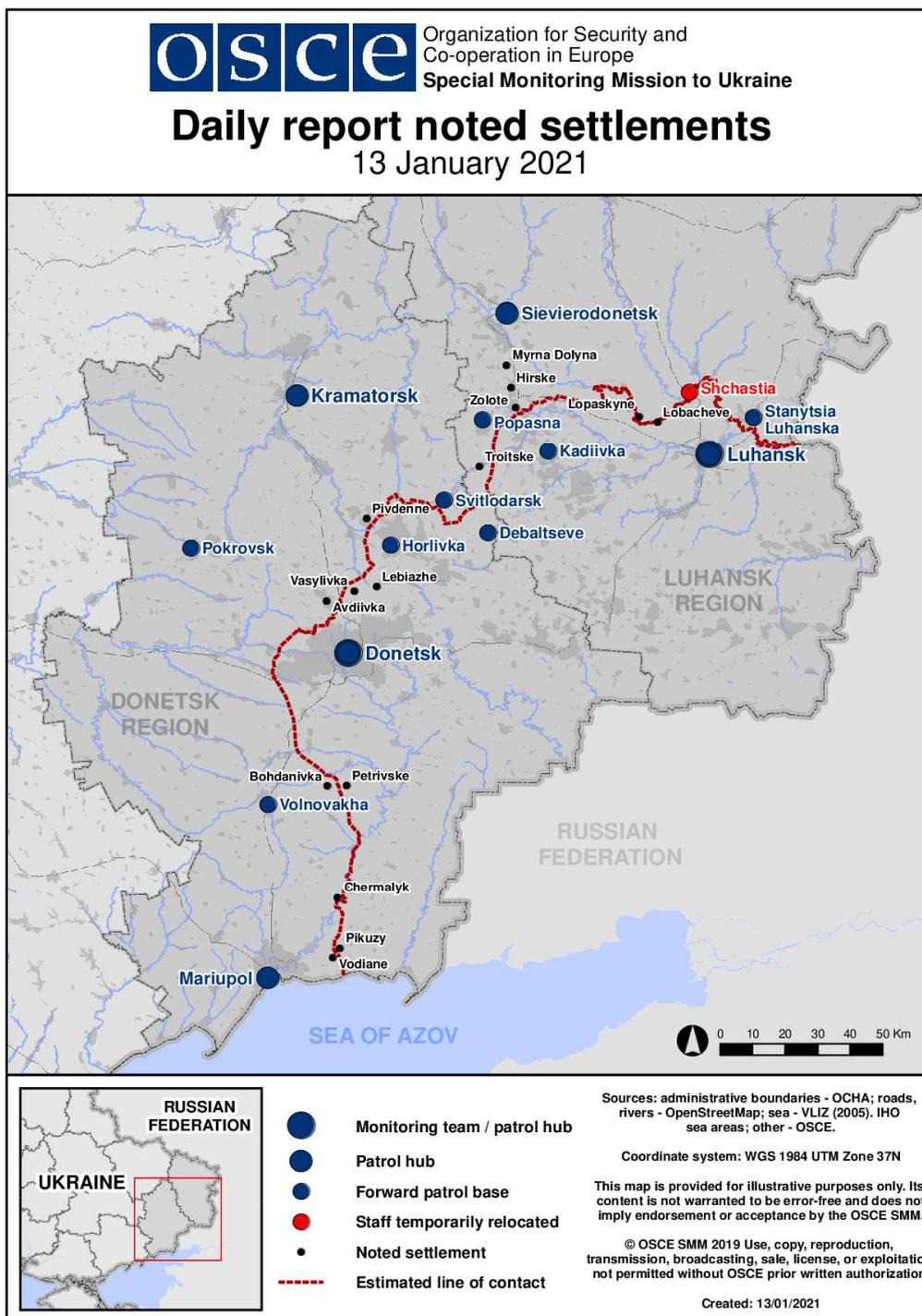
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 12 January 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	3	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	11-Jan, 20:56
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	11-Jan, 20:57
	2-4km SE	Recorded	6	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	11-Jan, 21:28
	2-4km SE	Recorded	2	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	11-Jan, 22:01
	2-4km SE	Recorded	7	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	11-Jan, 22:13
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	12-Jan, 18:25
	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	12-Jan, 18:25
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Jan, 23:46
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-4km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	11-Jan, 18:26
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	12-Jan, 00:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	12-Jan, 01:43
About 2km W of Lebiazhe (non-government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km N	Heard	17	Burst		HMG	12-Jan, 09:38-09:40
	1-2km N	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	12-Jan, 09:38-09:40
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	12-Jan, 11:31
	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	12-Jan, 11:32
	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	12-Jan, 11:33
	2-3km SE	Heard	2	Explosion		N/K	12-Jan, 11:46
	2-3km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	12-Jan, 11:46
	2-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion		N/K	12-Jan, 12:02
	2-4km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	12-Jan, 12:02
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	5-7km WSW	Heard	2	Explosion		N/K	12-Jan, 11:19-11:22
	5-7km SE	Heard	2	Explosion		N/K	12-Jan, 11:19-11:22

⁸ 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 regions⁹



⁹ 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).