

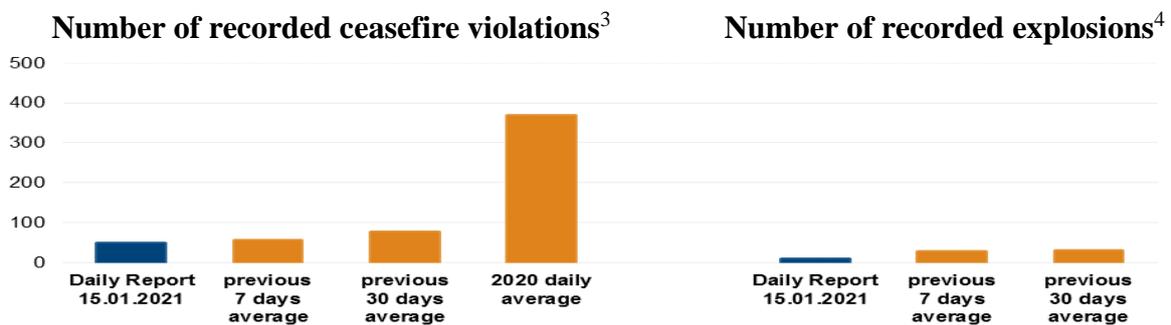
Daily Report 10/2021

15 January 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 47 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 11 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near government-controlled Berdianske and non-government-controlled Vasylivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard seven ceasefire violations close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the station.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



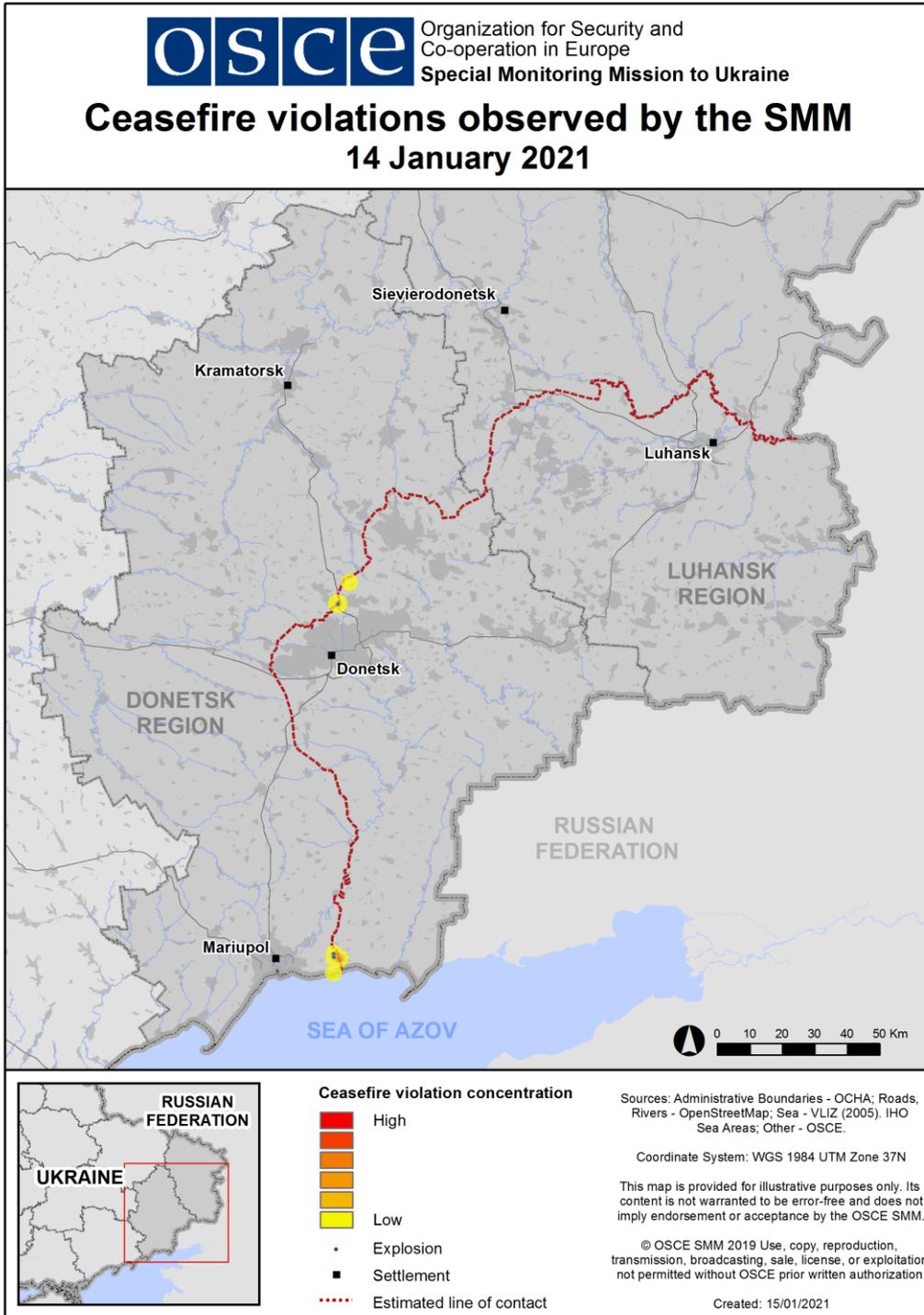
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 14 January 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

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



In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including ten explosions (nine undetermined and one impact of an undetermined weapon). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas near the Donetsk Filtration Stations (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) on the afternoon of 14 January (see below) and in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 47 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 11 ceasefire violations. Previously, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region between the evenings of 11 and 12 January.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 6,019 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,596 explosions, 752 projectiles in flight, 83 muzzle flashes, 54 illumination flares and at least 2,534 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near government-controlled Berdianske and non-government-controlled Vasylivka, Donetsk region

While positioned about 700m north of Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard a burst and five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.3km east-south-east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.7km east-south-east of its position.*

While positioned in Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard six bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1.5km north-north-west of its position.*

At both locations, the SMM landed the UAVs and remained in the area.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

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

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) entering the area and walking to about 350m north of its southern edge in two groups on two separate occasions. The SMM also saw four people in medical protective gear walking into the area to the same location 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.

While positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw seven tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The Mission observed an infantry fighting vehicle in a compound in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

SMM facilitation of operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM recorded seven shots of small-arms fire assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, which occurred near the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards the station.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable 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

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions. The SMM also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission again 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 were not operational.

At the former checkpoint, the SMM saw a worker unloading sand and gravel from a utility truck and two workers painting gates on its northern edge. At the latter checkpoint, the SMM saw for the first time a metal sheet covering a metal structure composed of six metal poles.

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

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 15 minutes, the Mission observed 11 cars (including ten with “DPR” plates), a covered cargo truck and five people (four women in their forties and a man in his thirties) entering Ukraine, as well eight cars (with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates) and three people (two women and one man in their forties) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about five minutes, the Mission did not observe any cars or people entering or exiting Ukraine.

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 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 of 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 Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard a burst and five shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above). The same mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference during two other flights in the area, assessed as caused by probable jamming.⁷
- While conducting a mini-UAV flight in Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard six bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at

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 UAVs’ positions.

the UAV (see above). The same mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference in the area, assessed as caused by probable jamming.

- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk).
- An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk).

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				
14/1/2021	7	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
14/1/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	In a compound in Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

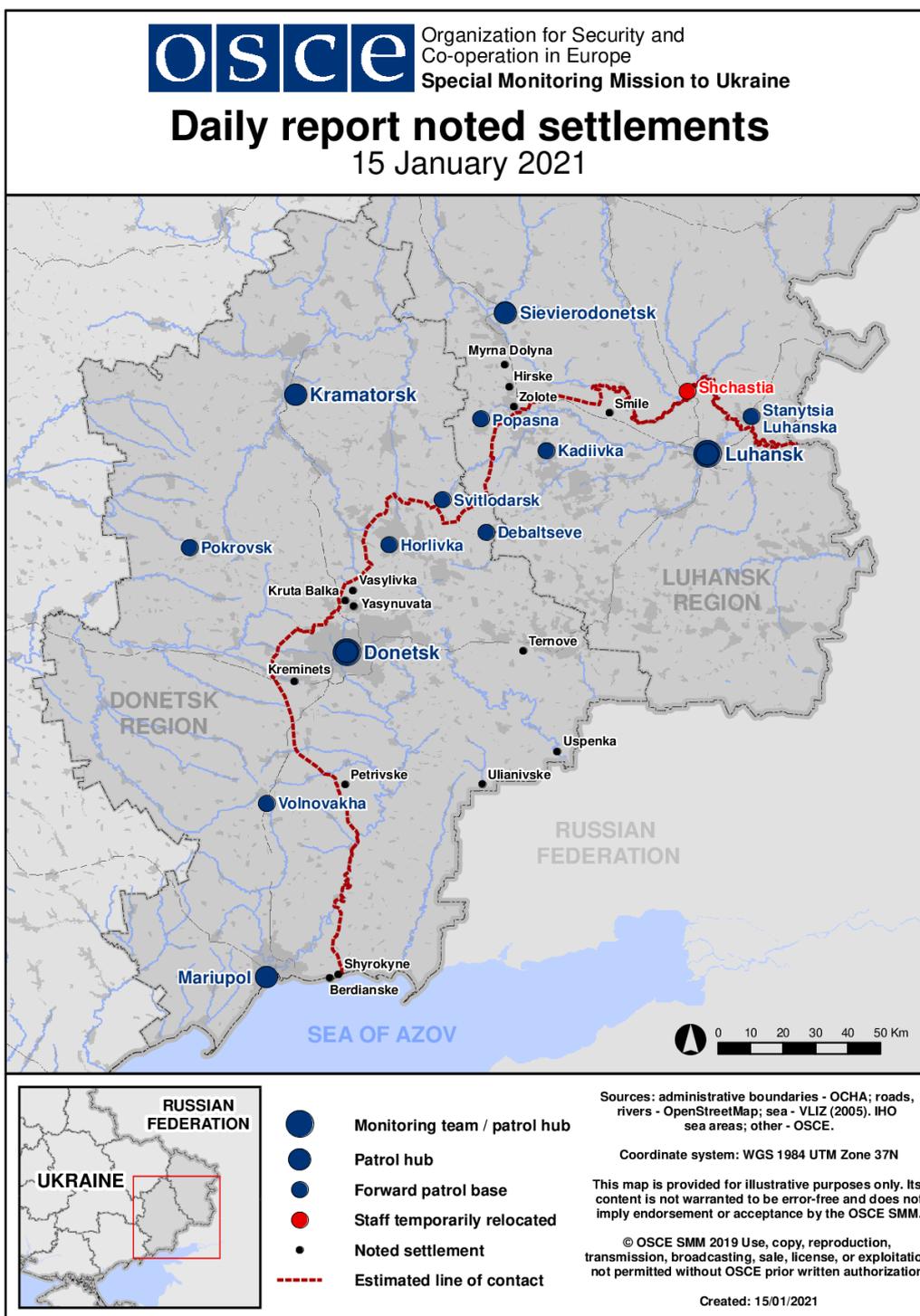
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 14 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Jan, 22:59
	1-2km SW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Jan, 22:59
	1-2km SW	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	13-Jan, 22:59
	1-2km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 23:13
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 18:59
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 19:00
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 19:01
	5-7km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 19:21
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	13-Jan, 21:05
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	13-Jan, 21:06
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	13-Jan, 21:07
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	13-Jan, 21:08
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	13-Jan, 21:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Jan, 23:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	13-Jan, 23:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	13-Jan, 23:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 23:27
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Jan, 23:27
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	13-Jan, 23:28	
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	13-Jan, 23:28	
Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	1.5km NW	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	14-Jan, 12:34
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km WSW	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	14-Jan, 13:35
About 700m N of Berdianske (government-controlled, 102km S of Donetsk)	1.3km ESE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	14-Jan, 10:24
	1.3km ESE	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	14-Jan, 10:24

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.

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).