

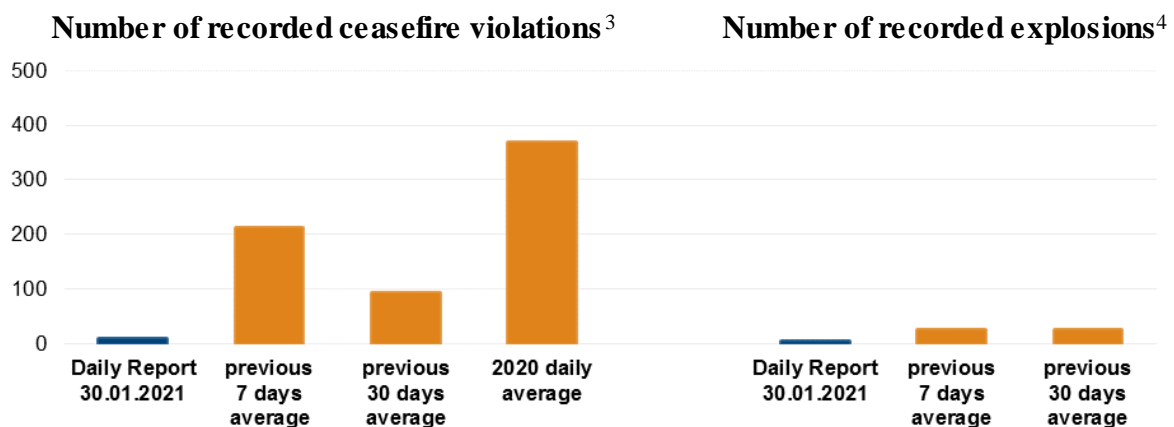
Daily Report 23/2021

30 January 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded nine ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 474 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region, as in the previous reporting period. The last time it recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on 26 January.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. The Mission again saw construction works on and close to road T-1316 near the southern edge of the Zolote disengagement area.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable maintenance, construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 29 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.

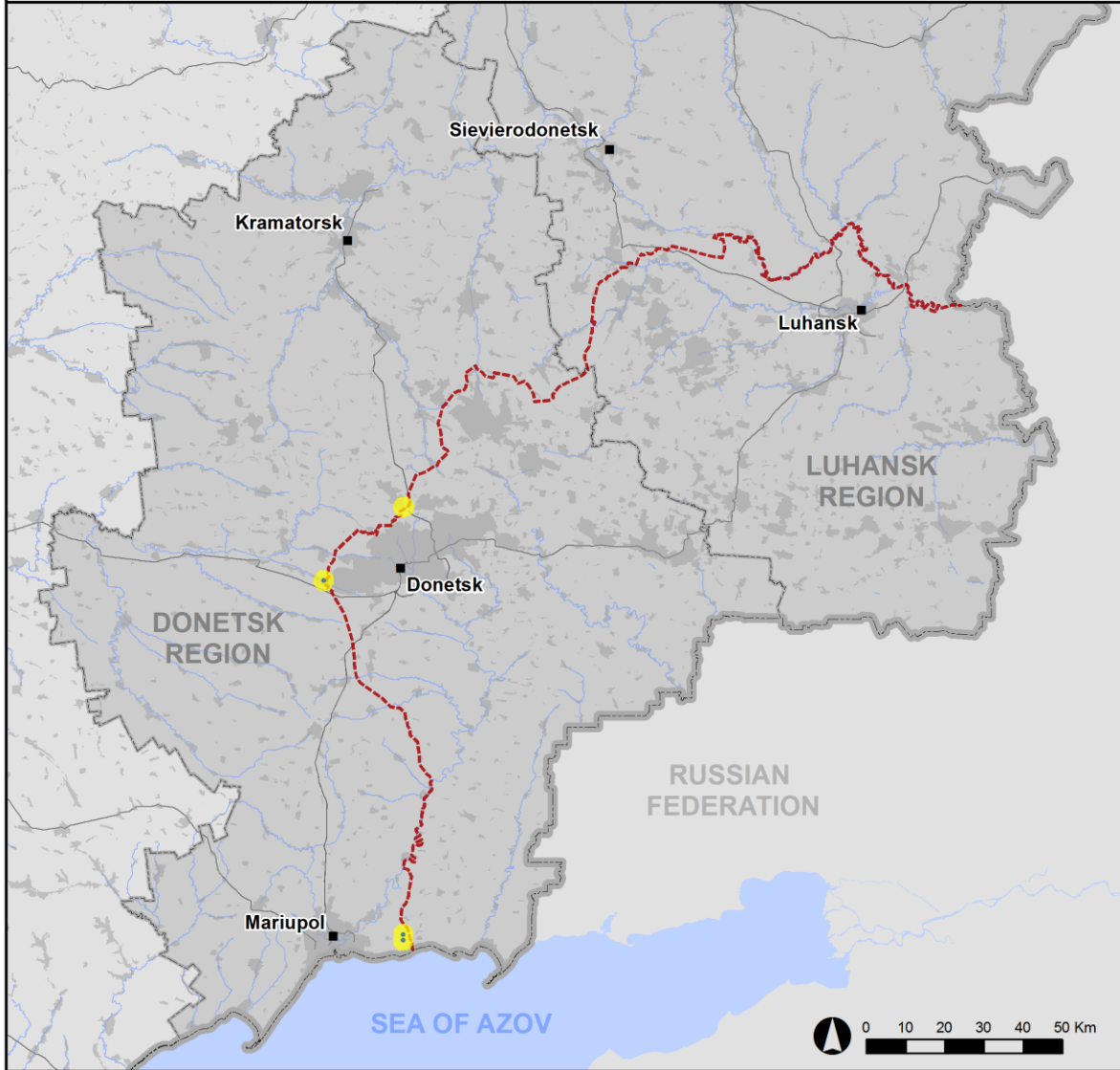
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

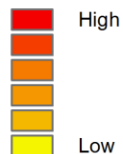
Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 29 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: 30/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded nine ceasefire violations, including four undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and south-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 474 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations as in the [previous reporting period](#). The last time the Mission recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on the evening of 26 January (see SMM Daily Report of [28 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 7,862 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,887 explosions, 1,025 projectiles in flight, 97 muzzle flashes, 60 illumination flares and at least 3,793 bursts and shots).

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).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the SMM again saw containers, six in total, on the southern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote- 5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). The Mission also observed workers with heavy equipment flattening the ground nearby, up to about 70m north of the checkpoint, inside the disengagement area. Also inside the disengagement area, about 20m north its southern edge, the SMM saw the workers laying asphalt on road T-1316. Subsequently, the Mission saw a crane lift and place one of the aforementioned containers about 70m north of the southern edge of the disengagement area.

On the same day, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), all of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by two people wearing medical protective suits (one of whom was carrying a canister with a spraying device).

On 29 January, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed a man in military-style clothing exit a damaged house located about 90m east of the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, enter a vehicle and drive it in an easterly direction on the road leading from Petrivske to Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk). At the same time, the Mission also observed another man in military-style clothing at the north-eastern corner of the disengagement area, near former positions of the armed formations.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM observed 14 tanks, five mortars and three howitzers 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 anti-aircraft gun in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region and armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of mines near Holmivskiyi, Donetsk region

On 28 January, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) [again](#) spotted eleven anti-tank mines, about 1.2km north of Holmivskiyi (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), laid across a road leading to Travneve (government-controlled, 51km north-east of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

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

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned about 2.5km south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station. The SMM also heard three explosions, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk); construction of a power line near Lopaskyne (government-controlled, 23km north-west of Luhansk); inspection of the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (government-controlled, 42km 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

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (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.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

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

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 were not.

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, 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 26 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.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/1/2021	14	Tank (T-72)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk) (see also below)	Mini-UAV
	5	Towed mortar (PM-38, 120mm)		
	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
29/1/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-variant)	Near Sartana (91km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Lomakyne (93km south of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
28/1/2021	10	Infantry fighting vehicle (three BMP-1 and seven undetermined types)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk) (see also above)	Mini-UAV

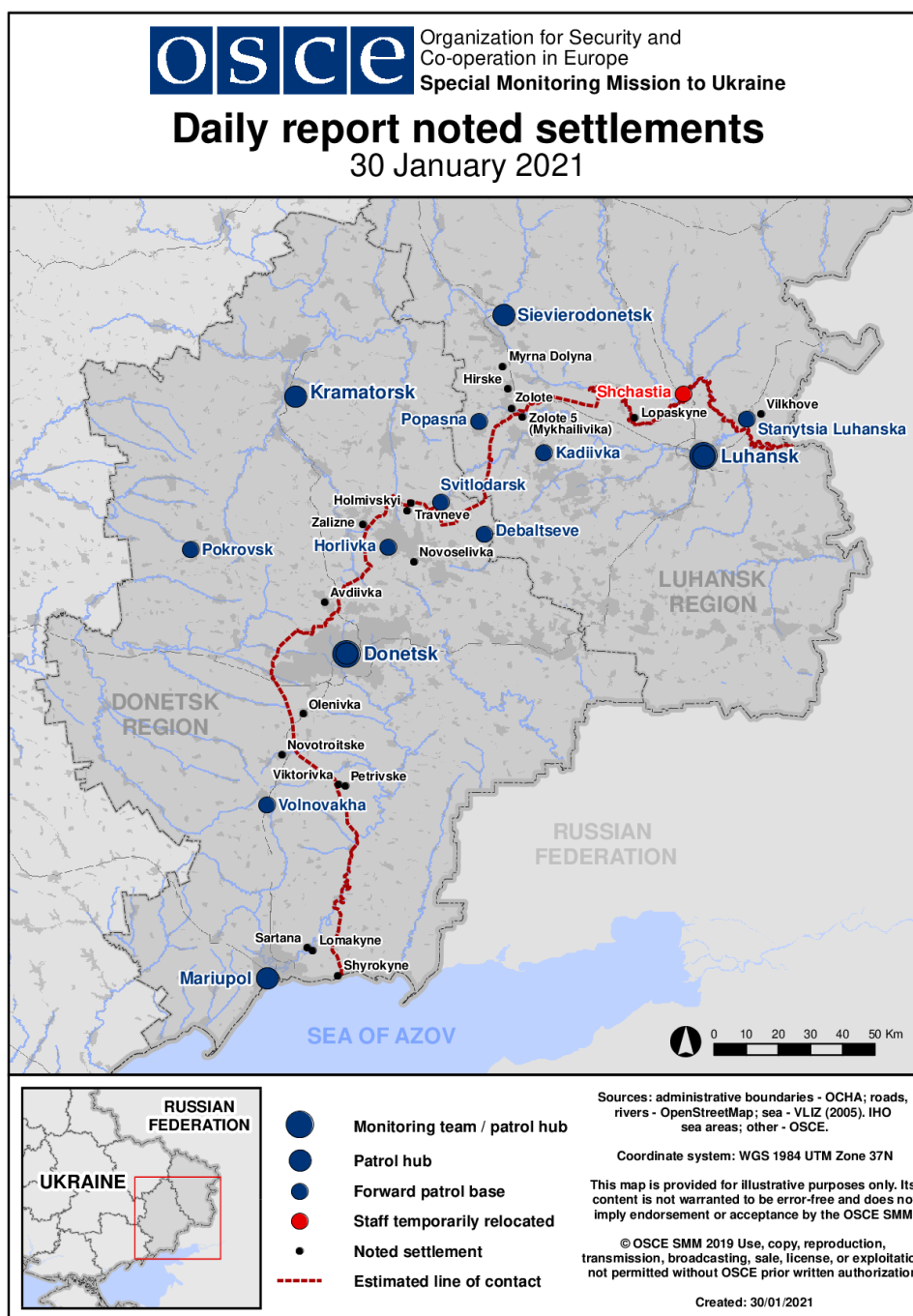
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 29 January 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	28-Jan, 20:15
	3-4km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Jan, 00:31
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Jan, 00:31
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	29-Jan, 00:31
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Jan, 16:12
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	29-Jan, 11:15

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).