



Daily Report 24/2021

1 February 2021¹

Summary

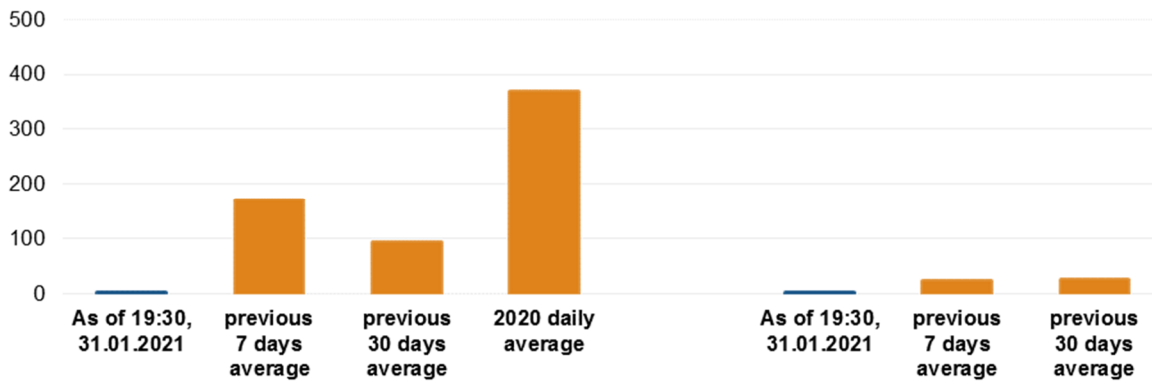
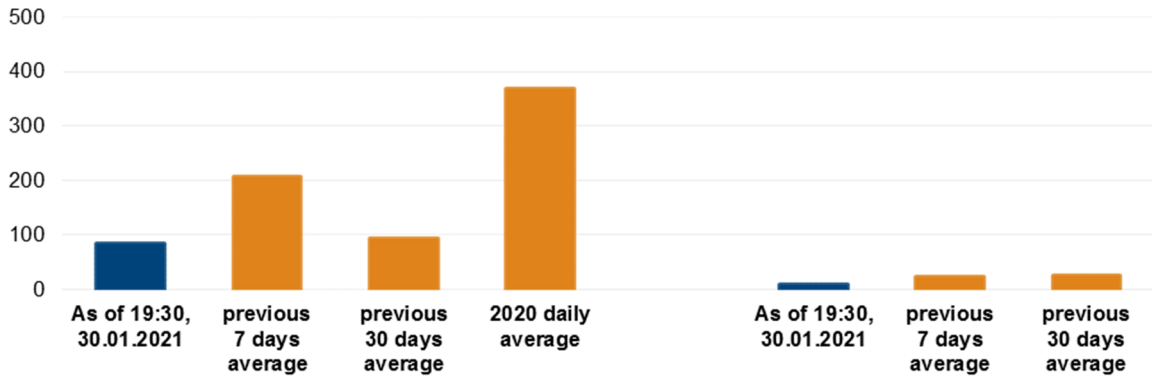
- Between the evenings of 29 and 31 January, the SMM recorded 65 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded nine ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 29 and 31 January, the Mission recorded 23 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Gunfire was assessed as directed at two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near government-controlled Chermalyk and non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. The Mission spotted for the first time three containers inside the northern edge of the area near Stanytsia Luhanska and again saw construction works near the southern edge of the area near Zolote.
- 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 five entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission monitored border areas and visited two border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including twice at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 31 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.

³ Including explosions.

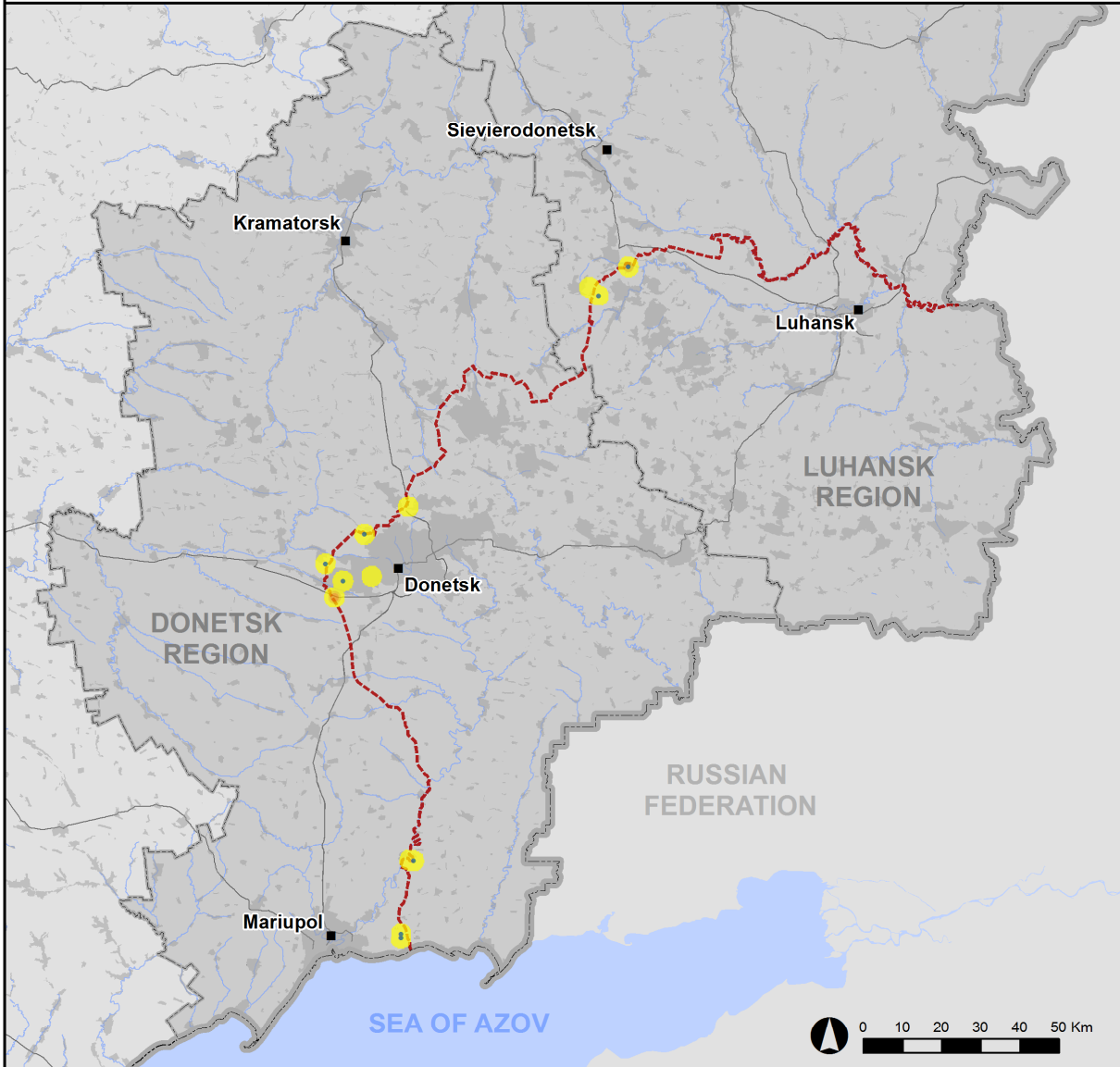
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

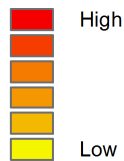


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30-31 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: 01/02/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 29 and 31 January, the SMM recorded 65 ceasefire violations, including nine undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas south-west of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) and south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded nine ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 29 and 31 January, the SMM recorded 23 ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions. In the [previous reporting period](#), it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

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 7,950 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,898 explosions, 1,030 projectiles in flight, 97 muzzle flashes, 60 illumination flares and at least 3,865 bursts and shots).

Gunfire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles near government-controlled Chermalyk and non-government-controlled Oleksandrivka, Donetsk region

On 30 January, while positioned in Chermalyk to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard 20 bursts of heavy-machine-gun and five shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km south-east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 2km south-east of its location, near positions of the armed formations.

On the same day, while positioned on the southern edge of Oleksandrivka to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 20 single shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km south-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1-2km south-west of its location, near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

In both cases, the Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 29 January, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), at the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) about 40m south of the area's northern edge, an SMM mini-UAV spotted for the first time three new grey containers on the western edge of a road leading to the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On 30 and 31 January, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) inside the area, on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

During the day on 30 January, the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion and 12 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) 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.

On 30 January, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw six containers on the southern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk). On 31 January, it saw five containers there. On both days, the Mission also observed workers with heavy equipment flattening the ground and cementing an area inside a fenced perimeter about 60m south of the area's southern edge (for previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 30 January 2021](#)).

On 30 and 31 January, while positioned 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 30 January, it saw an ambulance being driven by two people wearing medical protective suits enter and exit the area.

On 30 and 31 January, while positioned at two and three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), respectively, 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 areas, the SMM spotted a surface-to-air missile system loaded on a stationary trailer near Kramatorsk (government-controlled, 83km north of Donetsk) (for further information, see the table below).

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

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

On 30 and 31 January, while positioned on the eastern edge of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a mini-UAV (dark quadcopter type) flying over a field about 150m from its position, despite the ban on operation of any types of aerial vehicles included in the 22 July TCG decision regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire. On both days, it also observed seven Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel nearby, assessed as operating the UAV.

Mine hazard signs near Novhorodske, Donetsk region

On 31 January, near the western edge of Novhorodske (government-controlled, 35km north of Donetsk), on the southern side of the road running between Novhorodske and Sukha Balka (government-controlled, 36km north of Donetsk), the SMM observed for the first time two improvised rectangular mine hazard signs with "Mines" written in Ukrainian on them, attached to trees on both sides of an unpaved road (not seen in early January 2021).

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

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

On 30 and 31 January, the Mission continued to facilitate maintenance and operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS). On 30 January, it also monitored the security situation around the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

On both days 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).

On 30 January, it facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable construction of a power line near Lopaskyne (government-controlled, 23km north-west of Luhansk) 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, on 30 January, the Mission noted that the EECP near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. The SMM also observed that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremynets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed. On 31 January, the SMM noted that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic.

In Luhansk region, on 30 and 31 January, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel 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 were not.

Border areas outside government control

On 30 January, while at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk) for about 60 minutes, the SMM observed 14 cars (including five with “DPR” plates), a minivan and a covered cargo truck (both with “DPR” plates), and ten people (four women and six men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed 29 cars (including 17 with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks (including one with “DPR” plates) and three buses (including two with “DPR” plates, with about 110 passengers in total, mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the SMM continued to monitor border areas near Chervona Zoria (84km east of Donetsk), Dmytrivka (85km east of Donetsk), and Dibrivka (93km east of Donetsk).

On 31 January, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 60 minutes, the Mission observed ten cars (including four with “DPR” plates), a bus with “DPR” plates (with about 25 passengers, mixed genders and ages), five covered cargo trucks and three people (two women and one man in their forties) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed 23 cars (including seven with “DPR” plates), 15 covered cargo

trucks (including nine with “DPR” plates) and ten people (six women and four men in their twenties and thirties) exiting Ukraine.

On the same day, the SMM continued to monitor border areas near Stepne (72km east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km east of Donetsk) and Vasylivka (65km east of Donetsk).

Security situation in south-east Kherson region

On 29, 30 and 31 January, the SMM observed a calm situation in south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chaplynka (77km south-east of Kherson) and Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson); at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post in Valok (188km south-east of Kherson); and in Prymorsk (230km south-east of Kherson) and Salkove (161km 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 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.

Denial:

- On 31 January, at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards the centre of the settlement, referring to the absence of orders from superiors. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

Delay

- On 30 January, at the abovementioned checkpoint, two visibly armed members of the armed formations delayed the SMM passage towards the centre of Staromykhailivka for about 30 minutes. While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian cars passing through in both directions.

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:⁷

- On 30 January, while positioned in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 20 bursts of heavy-machine-gun and five shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying near positions of the armed formations (see above). The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.
- On the same day, while positioned on the southern edge of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km south-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 20 single shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.
- On 31 January, four SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, on seven occasions: twice while flying over areas near Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk), once while flying over areas near Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk), once while flying over areas near Pionerske (government-controlled, 101km south of Donetsk) and three times while flying over areas near Bereziwske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk).

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.

Table of weapons

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside of designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
30/1/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K37 <i>Buk</i>)	Loaded on a stationary trailer near Kramatorsk (83km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
29/1/2021	2	Armoured personnel carrier (probable BTR-80 variant)	In a residential area near Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Probable armoured combat vehicle		
30/1/2021	5	Infantry fighting vehicle (three BMP-1 and two BMP-2)	In a residential area of Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

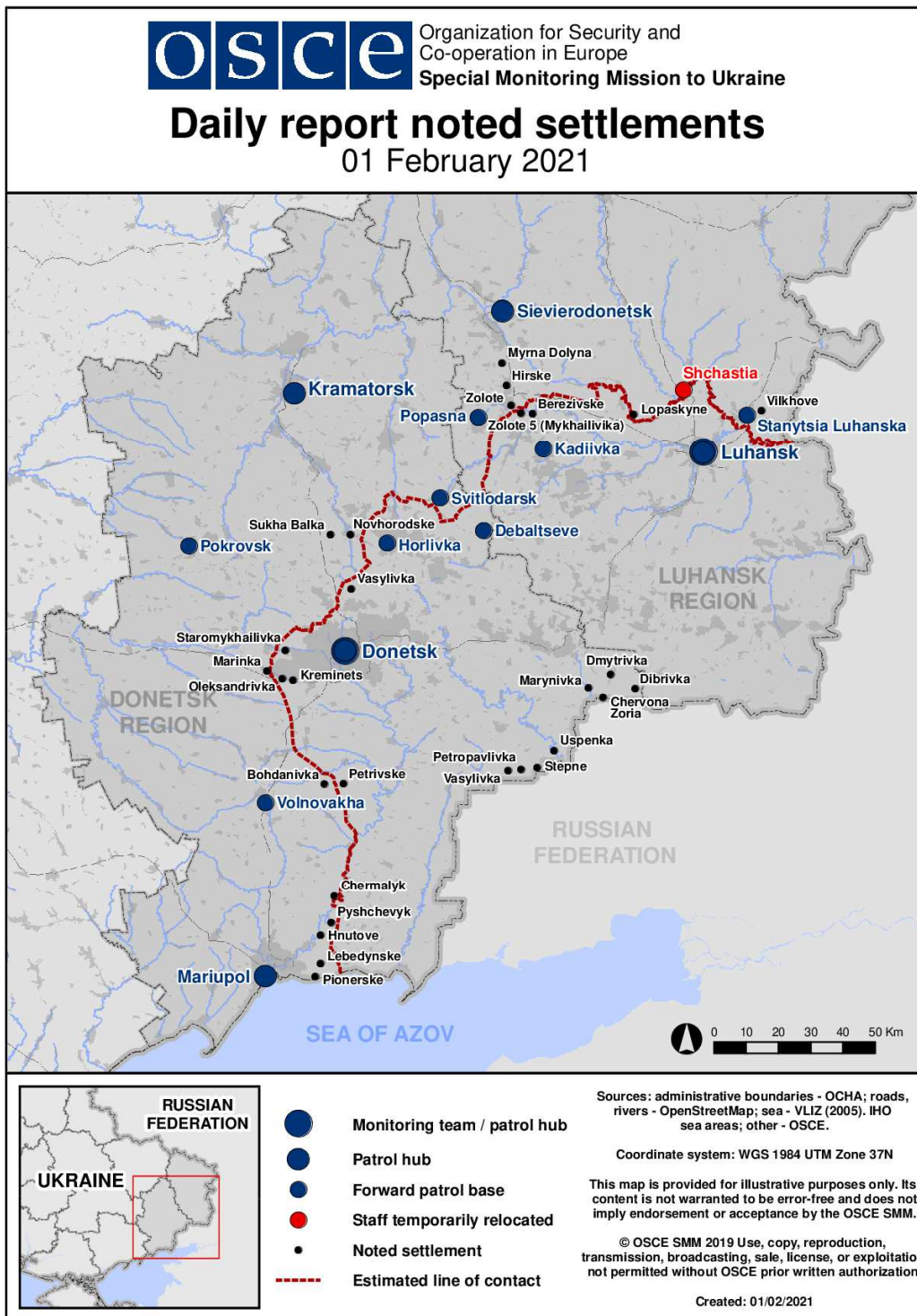
Table of ceasefire violations as of 31 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	29-Jan, 22:12
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Jan, 20:08
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Jan, 22:27
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jan, 02:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	30-Jan, 03:06
Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	30-Jan, 09:05
About 3km E of Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km SW of Donetsk city centre)	2-3km NE	Heard	6	Burst		Small arms	30-Jan, 10:48
Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	5-7km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jan, 13:02
E part of Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km W of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jan, 13:03
Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	1.5km SE	Heard	20	Burst		HMG	30-Jan, 10:46-10:47
	1.5km SE	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	30-Jan, 10:46-10:47
E edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	30-Jan, 11:20
1.5km SW of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km NW of Luhansk)	2-3km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jan, 11:27-11:30
	2-3km S	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	30-Jan, 11:27-11:30
Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km NW of Luhansk)	1-2km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	30-Jan, 12:44-12:50
	1-2km NNE	Heard	2	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	30-Jan, 12:44-12:50

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.

	1-2km NNE	Heard	10	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	30-Jan, 12:44-12:50
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	30-Jan, 21:57
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km W	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	31-Jan, 17:48
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Projectile	NE to SW	N/K	31-Jan, 17:49

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).