

OSCCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Daily Report 25/2021

2 February 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 38 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded four ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 72 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 • hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near . non-government-controlled Holubivske, Luhansk region.
- The Mission saw damage caused by shelling to two civilian properties in non-. government-controlled Syhnalne, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, • Zolote and Petrivske, and again saw containers and construction works near the southern edge of the area near Zolote.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable . maintenance, repairs 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 checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited three border crossing points outside government control in Donetsk . and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh), Donetsk region, and at a border crossing point near Izvaryne, Luhansk region.*



Ceasefire violations²

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

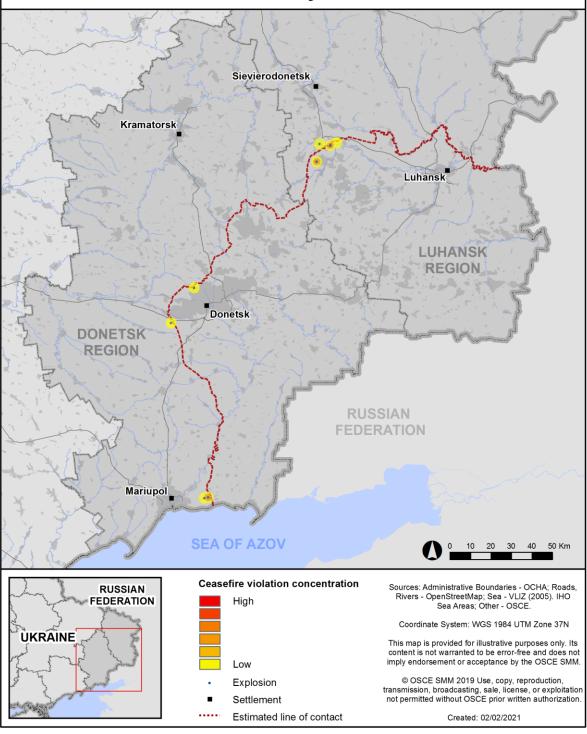
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 1 February 2021



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 38 ceasefire violations, including 26 undetermined explosions, the majority of which occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) on the night between 31 January and 1 February. In the previous 24 hours, the SMM recorded four ceasefire violations, including three undetermined explosions, in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 72 ceasefire violations, including 45 undetermined explosions, most of which occurred in areas north-west of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk) on the evening of 31 January (see below). In the previous 24 hours, 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 8,060 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,969 explosions, 1,040 projectiles in flight, 99 muzzle flashes, 60 illumination flares and at least 3,892 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near nongovernment-controlled Holubivske, Luhansk region

On 1 February, while positioned near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying about 1-2km north-west of its location. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area.*

Damage caused by shelling to civilian properties in non-government-controlled Syhnalne, Donetsk region

On 1 February, the Mission followed up on reports of damage to two inhabited houses on Haharina Street in the northern outskirts of Syhnalne (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk).

About 2m north of the north-western corner of a house at 2 Haharina Street, the SMM saw a fresh crater (about 80cm wide), assessed as caused by the round of an undetermined weapon fired from a west-north-westerly direction. The Mission saw the following damage: broken panes in three north-facing windows covered with transparent plastic; dents in the brick on the house's north-west-facing side and in a brick water well, and in its wooden cover, about 1m north of the same side of the house; a wooden fence stretching about 2m north from the well lying on the ground; pieces of a broken downspout on the ground near the house's western side; and multiple dents in the gutters and in the asbestos roofing above the north-western corner of the house. All this damage was assessed as fresh and caused by shrapnel. A resident (woman in her late forties) told the SMM that on 30 January at around 23:45, she had been at home when she heard a nearby explosion and some of her windows had been shattered.

At 4 Haharina Street, the Mission saw a fresh hole (about 80x35cm in diameter) in the northwest-facing side of a house and a splintered roof beam. The SMM also saw cracks in the brick on the house's north-facing side. In the house's courtyard, about 1m north of its northern side, the Mission saw a heap of several freshly dislodged cement tiles and, near the house's northeastern corner, a fresh crater (about 50cm wide) and a deformed and discoloured metal garage door, pierced in multiple places. Inside the garage, about 2m east of the metal door, the SMM saw broken crockery and holes in two sides of a washing machine. The Mission assessed the damage to the house, in the courtyard and to the garage as fresh and caused by the round of an undetermined weapon fired from a west-south-westerly direction.

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 1 February, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (governmentcontrolled, 16km north-east of Luhansk) 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 (15km north-east of Luhansk).

On the evening of 31 January, while positioned in the northern part of Kadiivka, the Mission recorded 44 undetermined explosions and 21 bursts of an undetermined weapon. On 1 February, while positioned on the southern edge of Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk), the SMM recorded an undetermined explosion at an assessed range of 4-5km north-west. All of these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw five containers on the southern edge of the road leading eastward towards Zolote-5/Mykhailivka. The Mission also observed ten workers with heavy equipment flattening the ground and cementing an area inside a fenced perimeter south of the disengagement area's southern edge (for previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 1 February 2021</u>).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) walk inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then return.

On 1 February, while positioned at two 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 areas, the SMM spotted 18 selfpropelled howitzers and a surface-to-air missile system near Manhush (government-controlled, 111km south of Donetsk) (for further information, see the table below).

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

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.

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region, including in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014, as well as two self-propelled anti-aircraft systems in a residential area near Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk) (for further information, see the table below).

Presence of anti-tank mines near Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region

On 30 January, an SMM mini-UAV spotted four anti-tank mines on the north-western outskirts of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), laid across the road leading towards Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 21km west of Donetsk) (for previous observations in the area see <u>SMM Daily Report of 5 March 2020</u>).

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

The Mission continued to facilitate maintenance and operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

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); inspection, maintenance and repair of a power line near Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km north 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, 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 civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

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

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a covered cargo truck (with "LPR" plates), a bus (with about 30 passengers, mixed genders and ages) and five people (two women and three men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. During the same time, it also observed four cars (including one with "LPR" plates) and five people (men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

While at a border crossing point near Sievernyi (50km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the SMM observed three cars (with "LPR" plates) entering Ukraine and two cars (with "LPR" plates) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk) for about 50 minutes, the Mission observed ten cars (including eight with "DPR" plates), a bus (with "DPR" plates and about 20 passengers, mixed genders and ages), two coved cargo trucks (with "DPR" plates) and two people (men in their forties) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 14 cars (including five with "DPR" plates) 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 below). 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-governmentcontrolled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (men in their thirties and fifties, one of them visibly armed) denied the Mission passage, referring to orders from superiors.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, referring to orders from superiors.

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 1 February, staff at a hospital in non-government-controlled Donetsk city declined to share information with the SMM on a reported civilian casualty and referred it to those in control.
- On the same day, while positioned near Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard six shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1-2km north-west, assessed as aimed at the UAV. The Mission landed the UAV and left the area (see above).

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation				
Government-controlled areas								
1/2/2021	18	Self-propelled howitzer (2S3 Akatsiya, 152mm)	Near Manhush (111km south of	Mini-UAV				
1/2/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 Strela-10)	Donetsk)					

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation				
	Government-controlled areas							
21/1/2021	2	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (ZSU-23-4 <i>Shilka</i> , 23mm)	In a residential area near Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV				
31/1/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT- LB)	Near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)					
	Non-government-controlled areas							
1/2/2021	2	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	At a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk), in a zone within which deployment of heavy armaments and military equipment is proscribed according to Point 5 of the Memorandum of 19 September 2014	Patrol				

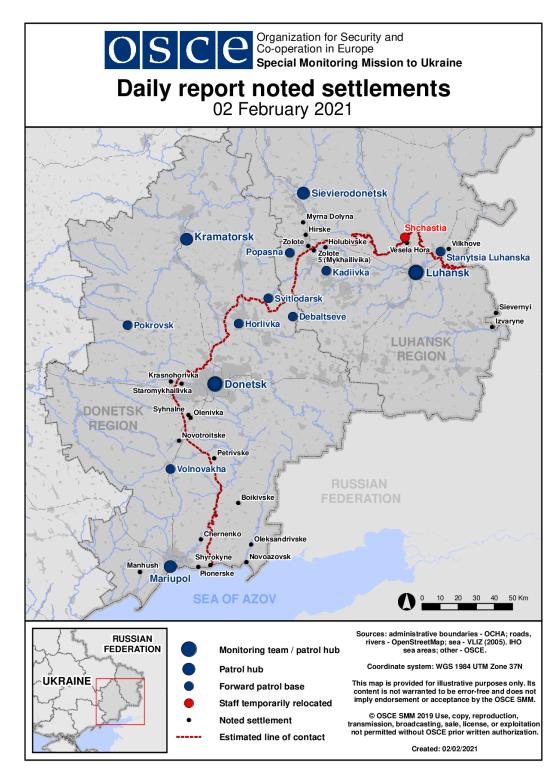
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non- government- controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 16:59
SMM camera 1km	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:02
SW of Shyrokyne	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:03
(government-	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	1-Feb, 00:04
controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to the previous event)	N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N	N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	1-Feb, 00:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:06
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	1-Feb, 00:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	1-Feb, 00:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to the previous event)	N/K	1-Feb, 00:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSE to NNW	N/K	1-Feb, 00:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:14
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 00:19
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	1-Feb, 01:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to the previous event)	N/K	1-Feb, 01:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (subsequent to the previous event)	N/K	1-Feb, 01:08
Oleksandrivka (non- government- controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	1-Feb, 12:38

Table of ceasefire violations as of 1 February 2021⁸

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.

Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non- government- controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	13-15km NNW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 19:32- 19:35
	13-15km NNW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 20:11- 20:20
	13-15km NNW	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 20:27- 20:28
	12-14km WNW	Heard	19	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	N/K	31-Jan, 20:32- 20:38
	12-14km WNW	Heard	2	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	N/K	31-Jan, 20:41
	12-14km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 20:50
	12-14km WNW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 20:55- 21:01
	12-14km WNW	Heard	9	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	31-Jan, 21:10- 21:18
Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government- controlled, 58km NW of Luhansk)	4-5km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	1-Feb, 11:27- 11:46
Holubivske (non- government- controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	1-2km NW	Heard	6	Shot		Small arms	1-Feb, 12:10- 12:11



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).