

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

Daily Report 275/2021

23 November 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 163 ceasefire violations, including 39 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 122 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 36 ceasefire violations, including 14 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission followed up on recent damage to civilian properties in Nevelske, Donetsk region.
- The SMM was denied passage to an SMM camera site for scheduled maintenance at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded one ceasefire violation inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored a gathering in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Zaichenko, Donetsk region and at a border crossing point outside government control near Izvaryne, Luhansk region. Its unmanned aerial vehicles again experienced instances of probable jamming.*



Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 November 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

³ Including explosions.

 $^{^{2}}$ For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, weather conditions limited the observation capabilities of some of SMM cameras.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 163 ceasefire violations, including 39 explosions (one airburst and 38 undetermined). Almost all ceasefire violations occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and south-west of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk). In the <u>previous 24 hours</u>, the Mission recorded 122 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which also occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 36 ceasefire violations, including 14 undetermined explosions. Almost all ceasefire violations occurred in areas west-south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region, almost all of which also occurred in areas close to the disengagement area near Zolote.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding Measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 83,072 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 22,879 explosions, 19,709 projectiles in flight, 393 muzzle flashes, 355 illumination flares and at least 39,736 bursts and shots).

Damage to civilian properties in Nevelske, Donetsk region

On 18 November, the Mission followed up on reports of damage to civilian properties in the central and northern parts of Nevelske (government-controlled, 18km north-west of Donetsk).

At 1A Molodizhna Street, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted damage to tiles on the roof of an outbuilding located west of an inhabited single-storey house. At 2 Molodizhna Street, the UAV spotted that about half of the roof of a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited, was destroyed and the other half was damaged. It also spotted broken roofing tiles from an adjacent outbuilding. At 3 Molodizhna Street, the UAV spotted damage to the roof of a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited, and saw tiles on the ground. The UAV also spotted that part of an east-facing brick wall of the same building had collapsed and debris was laying on the ground nearby. At 4 Molodizhna Street, the UAV spotted, and a destroyed east-facing side of a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited, and a destroyed east-facing side of a garage, located north-east of the aforementioned building. At 5 Molodizhna Street, the UAV spotted damage to tiles and rafters of the roof of a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited.

On Tsvitochna Street, the UAV spotted damage to the roofs of two outbuildings.

At 1 Tsentralna Street, the UAV spotted that part of an outbuilding located south of a singlestorey house, assessed as probably inhabited, was destroyed. At 2 Tsentralna Street, the UAV spotted that the eastern part of a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited, had been destroyed and also spotted a damaged vehicle next to the house. At 3 Tsentralna Street, at a single-storey house, assessed as probably inhabited, the UAV spotted damage to the roof and to a north-facing brick wall, with debris laying on the ground nearby.

At Yuvileina Street, the UAV spotted damage to the tiles of roof of a single-storey house, assessed as probably uninhabited.

The Mission assessed all aforementioned damage as recent and caused by large-calibre rounds fired from a south-south-eastern direction.

SMM was denied passage to an SMM camera site for scheduled maintenance at the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote

On 22 November, at 08:50, at a checkpoint about 500m south of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with "JCCC" written on it) denied the SMM passage towards its camera site inside the disengagement area to perform scheduled maintenance, referring to security reasons (see below).*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

Outside the disengagement area, at a previously reported position of the armed formations about 130m south-south-east of the area's south-eastern edge, just north of the Prince Ihor Monument, the SMM observed six members of the armed formations unloading sacks from a military-type truck.

While positioned inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, about 1km south of the area's northern edge, the Mission <u>again</u> saw a metal box on the western edge of the road about 70m south-south-east of the railway bridge. About 450m north of its southern edge, the SMM also <u>again</u> observed a wooden crate and two metal boxes placed across road T-1316. All these boxes were assessed as ammunition boxes. Also about 600m north of the area's southern edge, the Mission <u>again</u> saw many small metal spikes strewn on both sides of road T-1316.*

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the area's southern edge and inside the disengagement area. It saw that the previously reported road barriers across road T-1316, on the area's southern edge, continued to be closed.

An SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming while flying over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).*

During the reporting period, SMM patrols heard 13 undetermined explosions and 22 shots of small-arms fire assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

During the reporting period, the SMM camera 2km east of Bohdanivka (governmentcontrolled, 41km south-west of Donetsk) recorded one projectile in flight, assessed as inside

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

the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).

During the day on 22 November, while positioned at three locations close to the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Withdrawal of we apons

The SMM 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 Mission observed two tanks and seven howitzers/mortars in a training area near Myrne (non-government-controlled, 28km south-west of Luhansk). (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM observed eight armoured combat vehicles, including one probable, one anti-aircraft gun and one probable electronic warfare system in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in two residential areas and in a compound. It also observed two anti-aircraft guns, including one probable, in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including one in a residential area. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of craters near Sentianivka, Popasna and Novooleksandrivka, Luhansk region

On 19 November, in a field about 2km north of Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, nongovernment-controlled, 44km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted two impact craters, assessed as recent and caused by probable mortar rounds (not seen in imagery from 9 October 2021).

On the same day, in fields located 5-6km east-north-east of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted 29 impact craters. The Mission assessed the craters as recent but was unable to assess the weapon used or the direction of fire (not seen in imagery from 1 September 2021).

On the same day, in a field about 600m north-west of Novooleksandrivka (governmentcontrolled, 65km west of Luhansk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted nine impact craters. The Mission assessed the craters as recent and caused by rounds fired from a west-north-westerly direction but was unable to assess the type of weapon used.

SMM facilitation of the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (DFS). While positioned in the south-eastern part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard one undetermined explosion and one burst of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also monitored the security situation close to the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and monitored adherence to a localized

ceasefire to enable repair to a water pipeline near Hladosove (government-controlled, 51km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed 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 open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions. The Mission also observed that the EECP near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open but did not see any traffic passing through.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions. At the EECP, the Mission observed that four newly installed X-ray luggage scanners were operational, with two for people traveling to government-controlled areas and two for those traveling in the opposite direction.

The SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, 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 closed.

Along road T-1316 between the EECP near Zolote and the following intersection, on the eastern side of the road, the Mission observed continuing ground works involving about 20 workers, some of whom were operating machinery. (For previous observations in this area, <u>SMM Daily Report of 22 November 2021</u>.)

Border areas outside government control⁶

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM observed a bus (with "LPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) entering Ukraine. After about five minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.*

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 35 minutes, the SMM did not observe any people entering or exiting Ukraine.

The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv

On 21 November, at Independence Square in Kyiv, the Mission observed a gathering of at least 4,000 people (mixed genders and ages) on the occasion of the "Day of Dignity and Freedom", commemorating 2014 events on Maidan. The SMM observed a number of Ukrainian flags and flags of *AutoMaidan*, the Revolution of Citizens, the Veterans Association and the Heavenly Hundred Association. The Mission saw that the majority of participants marched towards the Office of the President at 11 Bankova Street. It observed about 25 law enforcement officers

⁶ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

near the square, a further 300 law enforcement officers in front of the Office of the President, and noted a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

*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 Zaichenko (non-government-controlled, 93km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage south into the settlement, citing "the SMM's safety". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a checkpoint about 500m south of the disengagement area near Zolote (governmentcontrolled, 60km west of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with "JCCC" written on it) denied the SMM passage towards its camera site inside the disengagement area, referring to security reasons.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area, referring to a lack of permission from those in control.

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

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during six flights: four times over areas near Lozove (non-government-controlled, 13km west of Donetsk), once near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of

⁷ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Donetsk) and once over the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

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 are as								
22/11/2021	2	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Myrne (28km south-west of	Patrol					
22/11/2021	7	Howitzer/mortar (type undetermined)	Luhansk)						

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

Date	No.	Туре	Location	Source of observation	
		Government-controlle	d areas		
	2	Armoured combat vehicles (type unknown) In a compound near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)			
19/11/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Le mailentiel anne af Name annielte (701-mart af	Mini-UAV	
	1	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	In residential areas of Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)		
	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)			
21/11/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novohryhorivka (55km south of Donetsk)	1	
22/11/2021	1	Probable electronic warfare system (Khortytsia-M)	In a residential area of Lebedynske (99km south of Donetsk)	Patrol	
		Non-government-control	led areas		
19/11/2021	1	Probable towed anti-aircraft gun (ZPU-1, 14.5mm)	Near Stepove (27km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV	
22/11/2021	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	In a residential area of Starobesheve (32km south- east 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 22 November 20219

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 2km E of Bohdanivka (government- controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-4km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as inside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	21-Nov, 23:25
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Nov, 17:03
(government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	S to N (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Nov, 17:03
	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Nov, 17:03
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government- controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	4-5km W	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:54
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	21-Nov, 20:15
controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-6km N	Recorded	20	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	21-Nov, 20:22
	3-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 20:53
	3-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 20:54
	3-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 20:57
	3-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Nov, 21:16
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Nov, 21:18
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	21-Nov, 21:19
	4-6km N	Recorded	21	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	22-Nov, 17:04
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:05
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:05
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:05
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:08
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	-
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	- ·	Undetermined	N/K N/K	22-Nov, 17:09
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:10 22-Nov, 17:10
		-		1			-
	5-7km NNE	Recorded Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K N/K	22-Nov, 17:11
	5-7km NNE 4-6km N	-	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:12
		Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined		22-Nov, 17:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:13
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:14
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:15
	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 17:33
SE part of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km	1-2km SE	Heard	1	Burst		Small arms	22-Nov, 11:35
N of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 11:35
NE edge of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	26	Shot		Small arms	22-Nov, 10:06-10:1
About 650m W of Pavlopil (government- controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	1km SSW	Heard	43	Shot		Small arms	22-Nov, 11:12-11:1
About 1km E of Holmivskyi (non-government- controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km W	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	22-Nov, 11:35
Dleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	1-1.5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 13:01
	1km NNW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	22-Nov, 13:01
SMM camera on Nedge of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Nov, 18:22
About 3.5km NE of Popasna (government- controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	2-4km ESE	Heard	2	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	22-Nov, 09:28
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government- controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	4-6km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	22-Nov, 09:20

⁹ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also as sessed 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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
	4-6km W	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	22-Nov, 10:10-10:20
	4-6km WSW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	22-Nov, 10:10-10:20
	4-6km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	22-Nov, 10:56
	4-6km W	Heard	20	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	22-Nov, 12:50



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).