

Daily Report 299/2021

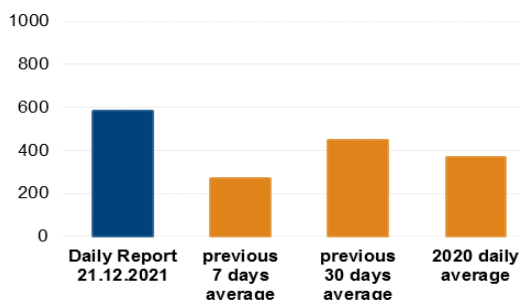
21 December 2021¹

Summary

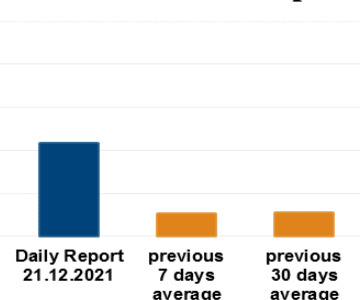
- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 354 ceasefire violations, including 215 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 43 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 229 ceasefire violations, including 219 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) near government-controlled Talakivka and non-government-controlled Vesele, Donetsk region; the former UAV was lost due to shooting, the latter was damaged due to signal interference, and a third UAV flying near non-government-controlled Petrivske, was lost due to signal interference.
- Members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage near Zolote, Luhansk region.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points and monitored areas near the border outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region. Its UAVs encountered multiple instances of GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 December 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, weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

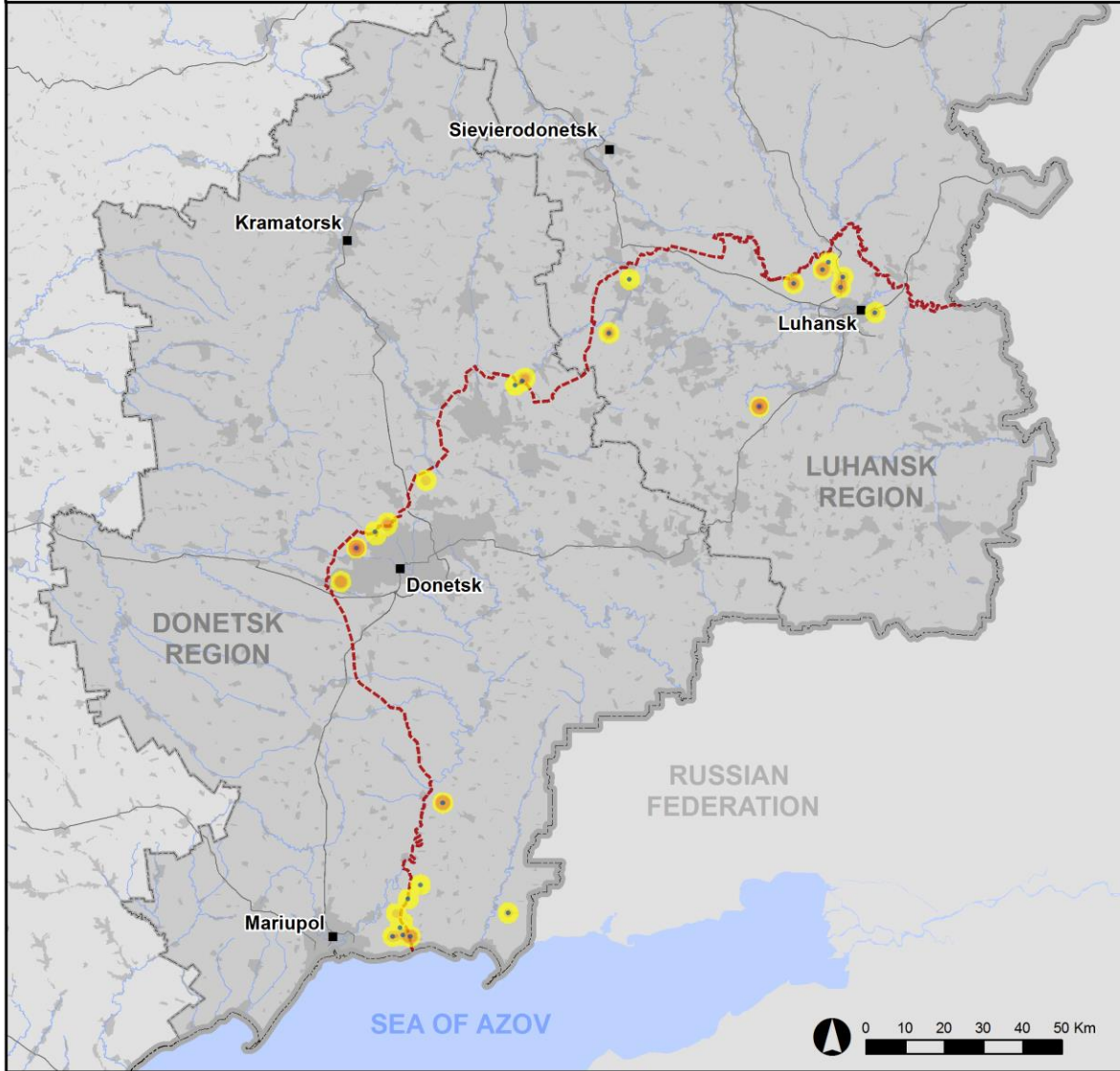
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 20 December 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: 21/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 354 ceasefire violations, including 215 explosions (15 impacts and 200 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas west of the outskirts of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, north and north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and east-south-east of Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km south of Donetsk). The Mission also assessed ten ceasefire violations recorded east of the training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk) as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded 43 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which were also assessed as live-fire training exercises.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 229 ceasefire violations, including 219 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in a training area near Myrne (non-government-controlled, 28km south-west of Luhansk), assessed as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone, as well as in areas west and south-west of the bridge near Stanytsia Luhanska (15km north-east of Luhansk) and north-north-west of non-government-controlled Luhansk city. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.

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 96,582 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,444 explosions, 23,183 projectiles in flight, 416 muzzle flashes, 411 illumination flares and at least 46,128 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-UAVs near government-controlled Talakivka and non-government-controlled Vesele, Donetsk region

While positioned on the eastern edge of Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard ten shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 4km east, assessed as targeting the UAV, immediately after which the SMM lost spatial control of the UAV. The UAV was assessed as lost due to shooting and the SMM could not retrieve it. *

While positioned on the northern edge of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard 12 shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1.5-2.5km north-north-west, while flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, directly followed by ten shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1km north-north-east while flying over positions of the armed formations. In both instances the shots were assessed as targeting the UAV. During the same flight, the mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, resulting in damage to the UAV during landing.*

Armed formations denied the SMM's passage near Zolote, Luhansk region

On 20 December, the armed formations in Luhansk region denied the Mission passage to an electricity box forming part of the power supply to the SMM's camera system in the disengagement area near Zolote. The box was located 100m south of the southern edge of the disengagement area. The SMM patrol, including two technical specialists, was travelling from the direction of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km west of Luhansk).

The denial occurred at 09:44 at the checkpoint of the armed formations near the southern edge of the disengagement area, when a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, citing a “lack of prior notification”. At 10:12 another SMM patrol, after it had entered the disengagement area from the government-controlled areas, arrived at the camera site 350m north of its southern edge and performed camera maintenance at the site. (See [SMM Spot Report 45/2021](#).)

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 two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) recorded one undetermined explosion, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw one member of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The SMM 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.

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

While positioned on the western edge of Petrivske to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. While it was flying about 20m south-west of the SMM’s position, the Mission lost spatial control over the UAV, which landed inside a former position of the armed formations. Subsequently, and despite an effort by the SMM to oblige them to hand it over, two armed members of the armed formations retrieved the UAV, told the SMM that they had orders to bring the UAV to their superiors and left the area.*

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At three heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region
20 December

The SMM noted that nine towed howitzers (five D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm and four D-20, 152mm) and four multiple rocket launch systems (BM-27 *Uragan*, 220mm) were present. It also noted that one towed howitzer (D-30 *Lyagushka*, 122mm) was missing since its last visit to this site on 24 August 2021. The Mission last visited these sites on 24 and 30 August 2021 and 19 September 2021, respectively.

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 SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

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.

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

The SMM saw eight armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

While in the northern part of Vesele, the Mission saw an object, assessed as the tailfin of a 120mm mortar round embedded in soft ground about 10m west of a local road.

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). While positioned in Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard 12 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also facilitated and monitored repairs to a water pipeline in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west 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 people queuing to travel in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

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.

Areas near the border outside government control⁷

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 80 minutes, the SMM observed ten cars (including four with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, each carrying about 45 passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 29 people (nine women and 20 men of mixed ages) entering Ukraine. At the same time, it saw ten cars (including four with “DPR” plates), four covered cargo trucks (with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, each carrying about 45

⁷ 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.

passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 15 people (six women and five men of mixed ages, and four children) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), for about 30 minutes, the Mission saw no civilian traffic.

The Mission also monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Manych (non-government-controlled, 76km east of Donetsk) and Novoukrainske (non-government-controlled, 77km east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, 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 16 December 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.

Denials:

- At a checkpoint on the eastern edge of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage east, citing “ongoing training activities”, thus preventing the Mission from visiting areas near the border outside government control.
- At a checkpoint on the northern edge of Novoazovsk (non-government-controlled, 102km south-east of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south towards Siedove (non-government-controlled, 106km south of Donetsk), citing a “lack of orders from superiors”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- While driving on a local road south-east of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk) to monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage. Also, the SMM [again](#) saw that a barrier was lowered, additionally preventing its passage. As a result, the Mission was [again](#) not able to monitor the security situation near the pumping station.

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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, one member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage south towards non-government-controlled areas only after about 65 minutes of waiting, citing a "lack of information from superiors".

Other impediments:⁸

- SMM mini-UAVs were assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) and Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk). During the latter flight, the mini-UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during 14 flights: three times each while flying over the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk) and over areas near non-government-controlled Donetsk city's Kuibyshevskiyi district, twice each over areas near Vesele, Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk) and Katerynivka (formerly Yuvileine, non-government-controlled, 8km west of Luhansk) and once each over areas near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and near non-government-controlled Petrivske (this occasion resulting in the loss of the UAV). (See above.)

⁸ 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.

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
18/12/2021	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Bohdanivka (41km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Orlivske (83km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
20/12/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a residential area of Donetsk city	Patrol

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

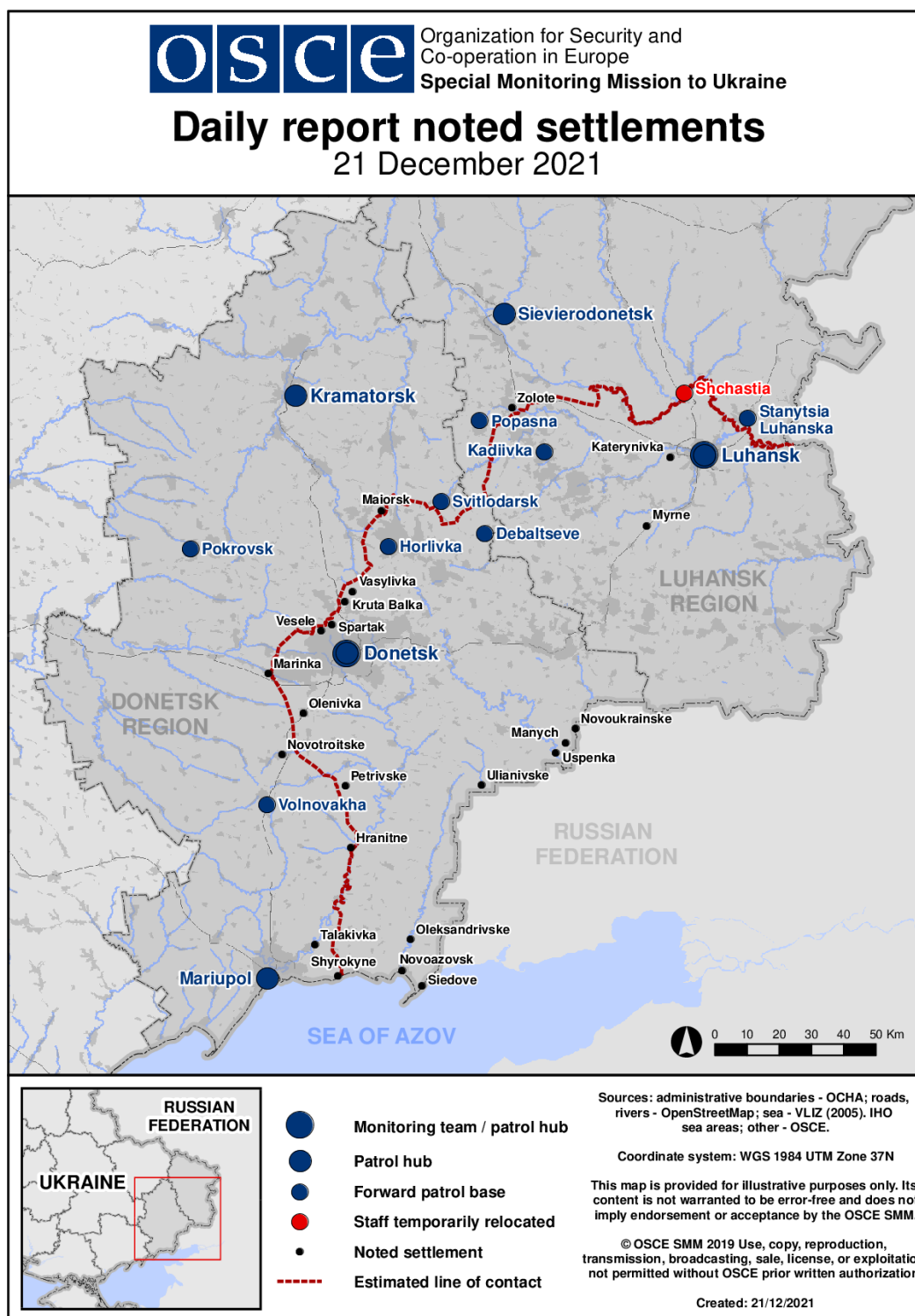
Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 December 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:26
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 20:30
	4-6km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 21:24
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	4-7km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 16:40
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 16:41
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:04
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:05
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	14	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:38
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:39
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 18:04
	4-7km ESE	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 18:05
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 19:00
	1-2km W	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Dec, 18:15
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	19-Dec, 20:19
	7-9km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	19-Dec, 20:48
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 21:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	E to W	N/K	19-Dec, 22:47
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 22:50
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	20-Dec, 01:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	20-Dec, 01:10
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 16:40
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 16:41
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:04
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:05
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 17:38
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E (undetermined)	N/K	20-Dec, 18:25
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km SW	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	19-Dec, 20:51
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 20:54
	2-4km SW	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	19-Dec, 23:14
	2-4km SW	Heard	15	Burst		HMG	19-Dec, 23:15-23:17
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 23:18
Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km N	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 09:07-09:11
	2-3km N	Heard	24	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 09:15-09:45
NW outskirts of Donetsk city (9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-6km W	Heard	70	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 09:13-09:26
	3-6km W	Heard	16	Burst		AGL	20-Dec, 09:13-09:26
	3-6km W	Heard	15	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 09:31-09:36
	3-6km W	Heard	3	Burst		AGL	20-Dec, 09:31-09:36

¹⁰ 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.

About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-3km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:50-10:52
	2-3km N	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 10:50-10:52
	2-3km N	Heard	8	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 10:50-10:52
	2-3km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 11:00
About 2km SSE of Oleksandrivske (non-government-controlled, 90km SE of Donetsk)	2km E	Heard and saw	10	Explosion	Impact	Tank (type N/K)	20-Dec, 10:50-10:52
Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	1km N	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 12:18
About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	3-4km NE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 12:42
About 1km E of Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	4km E	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 12:17
About 500m NW from Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	1.5-2.5km NNE	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 10:59
	1km NNE	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 11:01
About 1km SW of Novoluhanske (government-controlled, 53km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km S	Heard and saw	4	Explosion	Impact	N/K	20-Dec, 13:35
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	5-7km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	20-Dec, 17:44
Checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km N of Luhansk)	5-8km SW	Heard	35	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 09:15-09:58
W outskirts of non-government-controlled Luhansk city	8-12km NNW	Heard	26	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 09:10-09:25
Khrystove (non-government-controlled, 18km N of Luhansk)	8-10km SSW	Heard	14	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:20-10:30
Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (government-controlled, 15km NE of Luhansk)	10-20km W	Heard	21	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:18-10:35
	10-20km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:35-10:40
	10-20km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:40-10:48
	8-10km SW	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 11:10-11:15
Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km N of Luhansk)	6-8km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:45-10:58
Malomykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 36km SW of Luhansk)	5-6km NNE	Heard	80	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 10:48-11:02
	5-6km NNE	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 10:48-11:02
Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	12-15km WSW	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 14:55-15:15

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).