

# Daily Report 301/2021

23 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

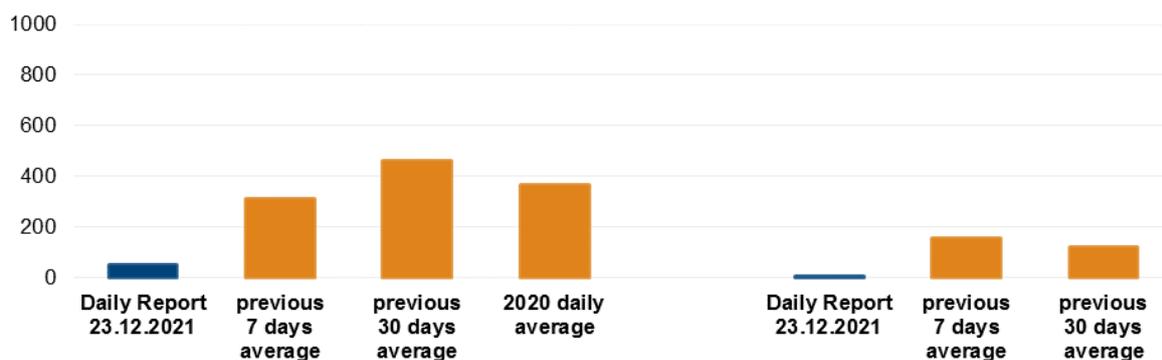
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations, including three explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 564 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 49 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge. Its UAVs encountered instances of GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

### Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

### Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 22 December 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

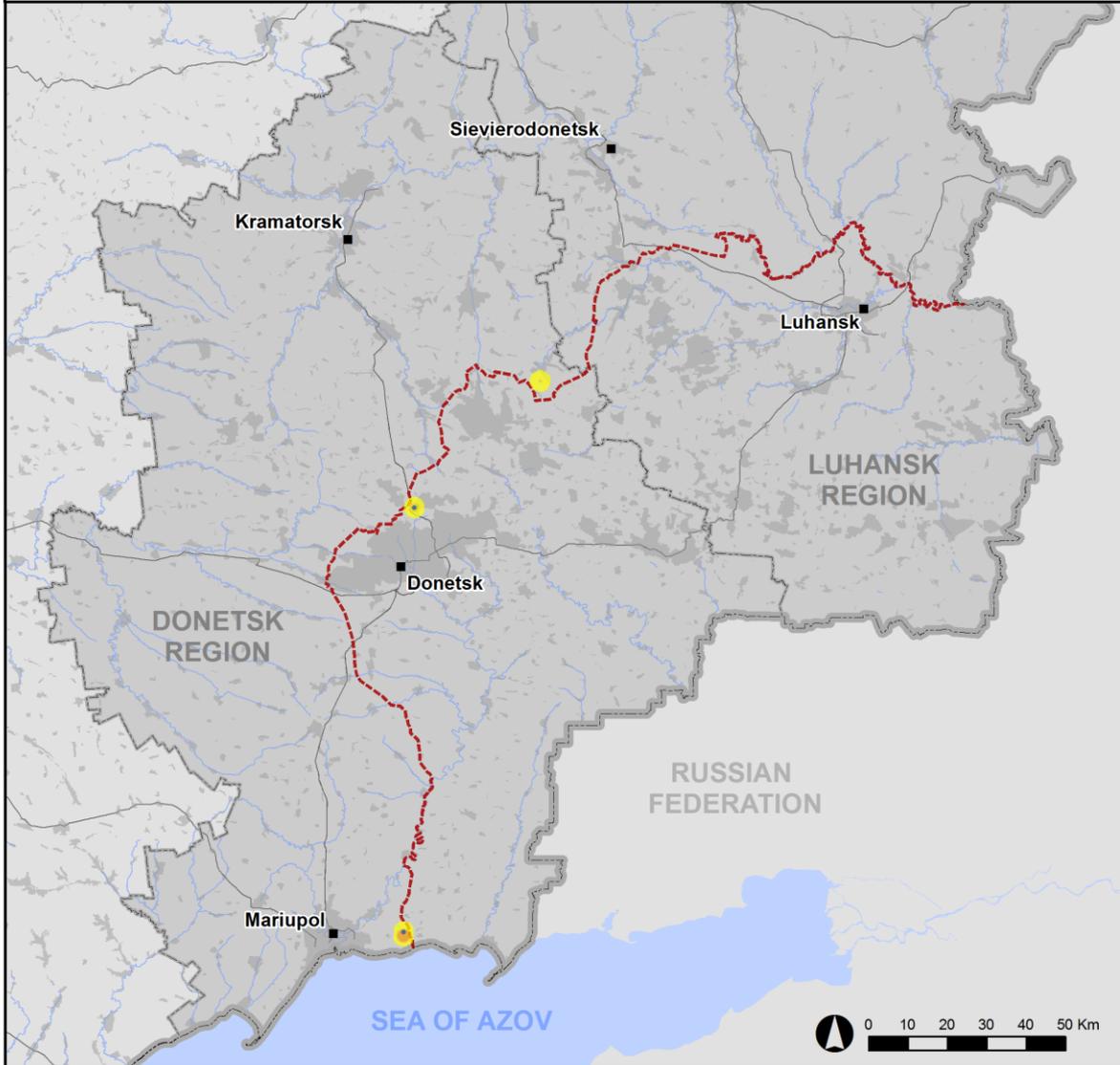
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

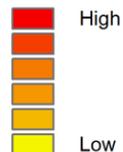


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 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: 23/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations, including three undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), east-south-east of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and south-south-east of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 564 ceasefire violations in the region, the majority of which also occurred in areas near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the SMM did not record any ceasefire violations in Luhansk region was on 28 November 2021. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 49 ceasefire violations 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 97,245 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,563 explosions, 23,403 projectiles in flight, 416 muzzle flashes, 412 illumination flares and at least 46,451 bursts and shots).

### Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>

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.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw a member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it). 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.

### Weapons storage sites

*At two permanent storage sites in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region*

22 December

The SMM noted that 59 tanks (28 T-64 and 31 T-72) and four mortars (M120-15 *Molot*, 120mm) were missing, compared with previous visits to these sites on 24 November 2021.

### 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.

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

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw one tank (type undetermined) in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission saw three armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region and one armoured personnel carrier in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Presence of mines near the disengagement area near Petrivske, as well as near government-controlled Berezove and non-government-controlled Vesele, all Donetsk region**

On 20 December, outside the disengagement area near Petrivske, about 300m west-north-west of its north-eastern corner, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two (previously reported) anti-tank mines (one of which a TM-62) on the northern edge of road C-051532. About 450m and 550m north-west of the same corner, it also spotted two (previously reported) anti-personnel mines (PMN-2) laid on the northern and southern edges of the aforementioned road, respectively. All these mines were assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 2 December 2021](#).)

On the same day, at three locations about 900m and 1km north-north-east and 1.7km north-east of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted 123 (previously reported) anti-tank mines laid across a former runway and two former taxiways of the destroyed Donetsk international airport (8km north-west of Donetsk), all assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [27 August 2021](#) and [2 November 2021](#).)

On 21 December, an SMM mini-UAV spotted five anti-tank mines laid across road T-0509 about 3.5km south-east of Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 7 August 2020](#)).

### **SMM facilitation of the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions and nine bursts of small-arms fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed. It also observed that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

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 checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was closed.

At checkpoints between non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions near Chornukhyne (non-government-controlled, 64km south-west of Luhansk) and near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed vehicular traffic in both directions.

The SMM monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Sukhodilsk (non-government-controlled, 38km south-east of Luhansk), Malyi Sukhodil (non-government-controlled, 44km south-east of Luhansk) and Uralo-Kavkaz (non-government-controlled, 46km south-east of Luhansk) 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 od 22 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.*

*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 (government-controlled, 15km north-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations allowed the Mission to travel towards non-government-controlled areas only after about 70 minutes of waiting, citing a "lack of prior notification".

Other impediments:<sup>6</sup>

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five flights: once each over areas near government-controlled Kozachyi (41km north-east of Luhansk) and Dmytrivka (43km north of Luhansk) and once each over areas near non-government-controlled Novoselivka (16km west of Luhansk), Krynychne (45km west of Luhansk) and Bohdanivka (44km west of Luhansk).

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

**Tables of weapons**  
**Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines**

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
22/12/2021	1	Tank (type undetermined)	Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

**Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>7</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
21/12/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
22/12/2021	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
22/12/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near Irmino (54km west of Luhansk)	Patrol

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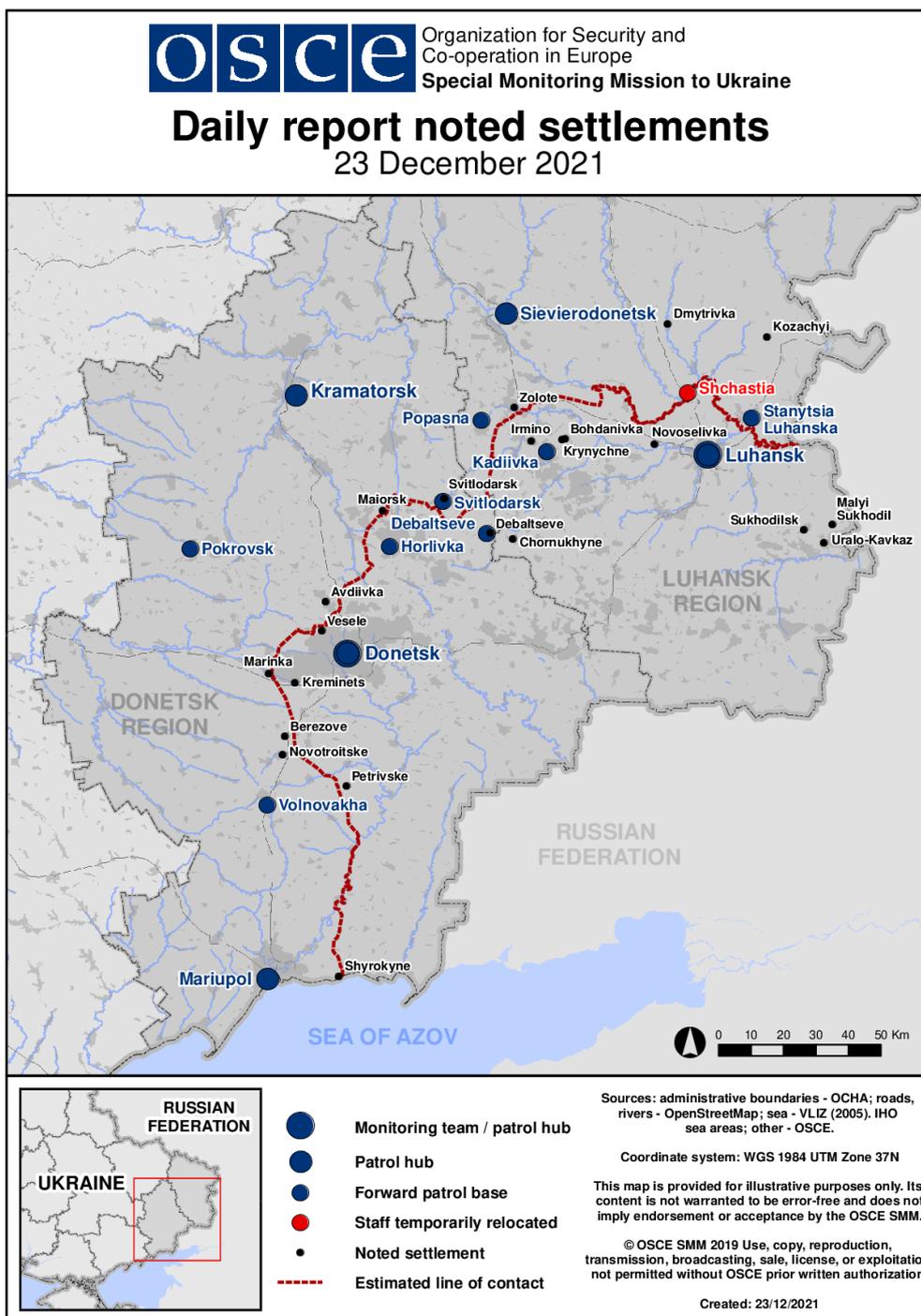
<sup>7</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 December 2021<sup>8</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 00:28
	3-5km N	Recorded	30	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	22-Dec, 17:38
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 17:38
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Dec, 17:38
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km SSE	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	21-Dec, 19:27
SE edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 11:46-11:49
	3-5km ESE	Heard	9	Burst		HMG	22-Dec, 11:46-11:49

<sup>8</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

### Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> 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).