

# Daily Report 306/2019

28 December 2019<sup>1</sup>

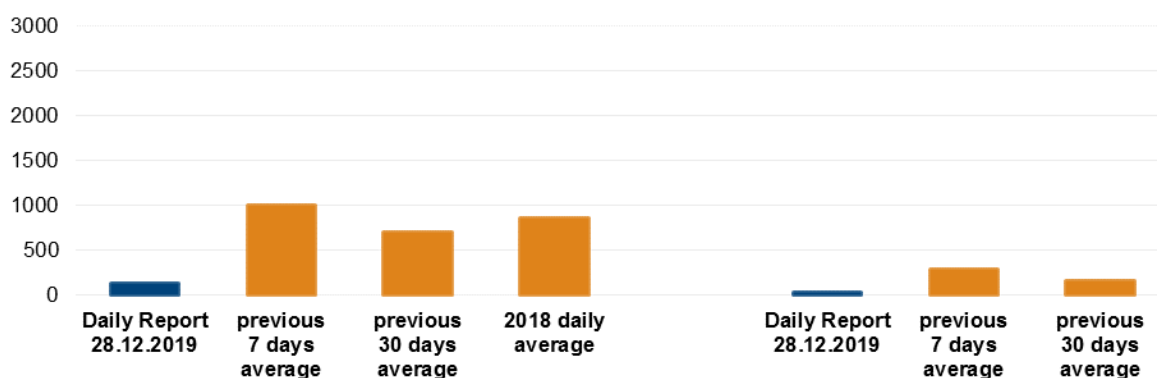
## Summary

- Compared with the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded fewer ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM saw a tailfin from a mortar in the Zolote disengagement area and remnants of a rocket-propelled grenade in the Stanytsia Luhanska disengagement area.
- It saw a self-propelled howitzer in violation of withdrawal lines near government-controlled Novobakhmutivka.
- The Mission saw long queues of civilians at checkpoints along the contact line.
- It monitored and facilitated adherence to localized ceasefires to facilitate the drilling of water wells near Pankivka, repairs to a water intake near Krasnyi Lyman and to a water pipeline near Zaitseve, and continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a border crossing point near non-government-controlled Izvaryne and at checkpoints of the armed formations near Verkhnohyrokiivske and Starolaspa.\*

## 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, 27 December 2019. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. After 20:20 on 26 December, the SMM camera 1km south-west of Shyrokyne was not operational. During the reporting period, dense fog limited the observations of most of the SMM cameras.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

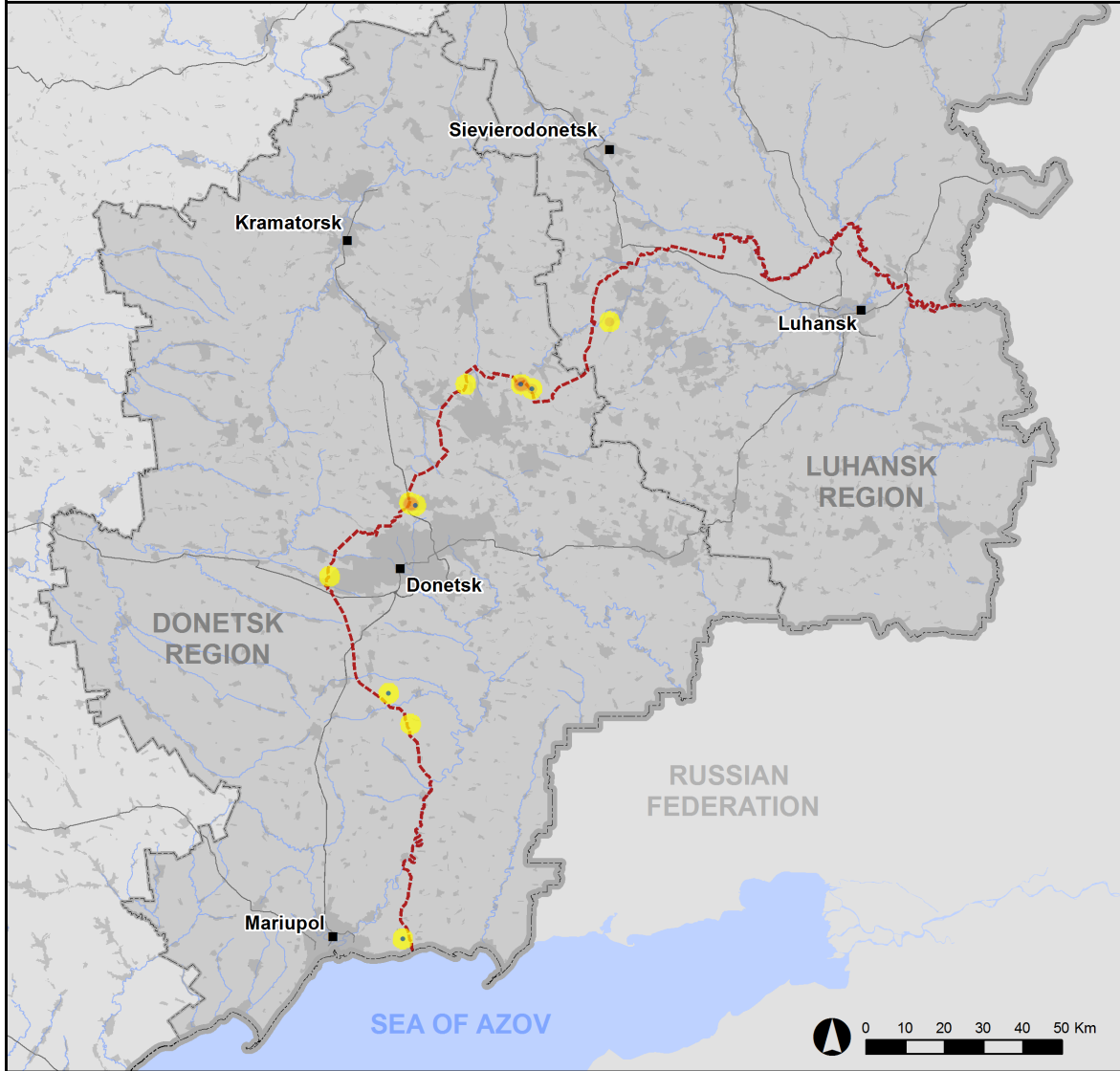
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations



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

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 27 December 2019



#### Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
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- Low
- 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: 28/12/2019

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations, including fewer explosions (22), compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (about 390 explosions). The majority of the ceasefire violations were recorded in areas south and south-west of Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km north-east of Donetsk) and at southerly directions of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) where, during the night of 26-27 December, the SMM camera recorded 32 projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 300-800m from the station. In the early evening of 27 December, the same camera recorded eight projectiles in flight at an assessed range of 200-700m south of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations and no explosions, compared with the [previous 24 hours](#) (50 explosions). All of the ceasefire violations were bursts of small-arms fire recorded in areas south-west of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk).

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

On 25 December, outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), about 1.5km north-east of the area's north-eastern corner, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted for the first time five anti-tank mines (TM-62) in a field about 20m east of a road leading from Petrivske to Styła (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) and about 500m east of positions of the armed formations. On 26 December, about 800m north of the area's northern edge, an SMM mini-UAV spotted an infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) (BMP-2) near positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. On the same day, about 700m south of the area's southern edge, an SMM mini-UAV spotted an IFV (BMP-2) and an armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB ambulance variant), as well as another IFV (BMP-2), about 1.5km further east, all assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On 26 December, inside the disengagement area, an SMM mini-UAV spotted eight mine hazard signs (assessed as not recent) about 200m east of the area's western edge and about 900m south of its northern edge.

On 27 December, positioned near the north-eastern corner of the disengagement area, the SMM heard three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire at an assessed range of 1-2km south-south-west, assessed as inside the disengagement area.

Inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), about 1km north of its southern edge, the Mission saw for the first time a tailfin from a 120mm mortar shell, assessed as not recent, embedded in the ground about 10m east of road T-1316. This road is regularly used by the SMM.

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), just east of a container of an international organization south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north of Luhansk), the SMM saw five workers from non-government-controlled areas and one crane lowering concrete blocks into a hole. On the ground nearby, the SMM also saw remnants of a rocket-propelled grenade. Workers told the

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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.

SMM that they had found the remnants while working in the hole. Throughout the day, the SMM saw six members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) between the new section of the bridge and the checkpoint of the armed formations south of it.

### **Withdrawal of weapons**

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

The Mission observed a self-propelled howitzer in violation of withdrawal lines in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

### **Indications of military presence in the security zone<sup>6</sup>**

The SMM observed military presence inside the security zone in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including three IFVs near residential houses (for further details, see the table below).

### **Long queues at checkpoints along the contact line**

On 27 December, in the morning, the SMM saw long queues at four checkpoints along the contact line. At a checkpoint near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM saw about 300 vehicles queuing to travel toward government-controlled areas. At a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), it saw about 1,000 pedestrians and 300 vehicles queuing to travel toward government-controlled areas. At a checkpoint near Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), the Mission saw about 400 people queuing to enter government-controlled areas and at the corresponding checkpoint near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) it saw about 400 people queuing to travel toward non-government-controlled areas.

### **Border areas outside government control**

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about five minutes, the SMM saw no cross-border traffic. Shortly after arrival, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.\*

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for 30 minutes, the SMM saw seven pedestrians (mixed ages and genders) entering Ukraine.

### **SMM facilitation of repairs to and operation of critical civilian infrastructure**

The SMM monitored and facilitated adherence to localized ceasefires to facilitate the drilling of water wells near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk) as well as

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

repairs to a water intake near Krasnyi Lyman (non-government-controlled, 30km north-west of Luhansk) and a water pipeline near Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk). The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS.

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 Package of Measures 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 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.*

#### Denial of access:

- 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.
- At a checkpoint west of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), four members of the armed formations [again](#) denied the SMM passage.
- At a checkpoint on the northern edge of Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (one armed) denied the SMM passage to the settlement, citing “demining activities in the area.”

#### *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.

## Table of weapons

### Weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
26/12/2019	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

### **Table of indications 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>				
26/12/2019	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-2)	Near Nyzhnoteple (26km north of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-variant)	At a compound near Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk)	
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP variants and a probable BMP variant)	Near residential houses in Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk)	
27/12/2019	2	Anti-aircraft gun (a ZPU-1 and a probable ZPU-2)	On the southern outskirts of Kriakivka (38km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	At the entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk)	

<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 27 December 2019<sup>8</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	500-800m SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-Dec, 21:43
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-Dec, 21:43
	500-800m S	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	26-Dec, 21:43
	500-800m S	Recorded	5	Projectile	N to S	N/K	26-Dec, 22:28
	500-800m S	Recorded	8	Projectile	N to S	N/K	26-Dec, 22:39
	300-500m SSW	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-Dec, 22:43
	500-800m S	Recorded	5	Projectile	N to S	N/K	26-Dec, 23:41
	500-800m S	Recorded	4	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-Dec, 23:57
	500-800m S	Recorded	3	Muzzle flash		N/K	26-Dec, 23:59
	500-800m S	Recorded	3	Muzzle flash		N/K	27-Dec, 01:05
	200-700m S	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 16:30
	200-700m S	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	27-Dec, 16:31
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	26-Dec, 18:40
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	26-Dec, 18:49
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 17:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 18:34
	3-5km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	E to W	N/K	26-Dec, 18:53
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1km SW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	27-Dec, 09:24
	1km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 09:24
	1km SW	Heard	4	Shot		Small arms	27-Dec, 12:50
Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	HMG	27-Dec, 10:16
About 2km NE of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	6-8km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion		N/K	27-Dec, 13:26
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 19:12
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 19:14
	3-5km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 19:14-19:15
	3-5km S	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 19:31

<sup>8</sup> The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by the SMM 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 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 and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 19:32
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 19:33
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 19:35
	3-5km S	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 19:36
	3-5km S	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 19:36
	3-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 20:04
	3-5km SW	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 20:10
	3-5km SW	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 20:18
	3-5km S	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 20:47
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 22:04
	3-5km SW	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 22:55
	3-5km SW	Heard	3	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 22:58
	3-5km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	26-Dec, 23:38-23:40
	3-5km SW	Heard	8	Burst		HMG	26-Dec, 23:44-23:45
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 16:14
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 16:15
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 16:19
	3-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	27-Dec, 16:21
Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km SW	Heard	11	Burst		Small arms	27-Dec, 09:15-09:35



## 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 has 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 patrols in this settlement during daylight hours, as well).