

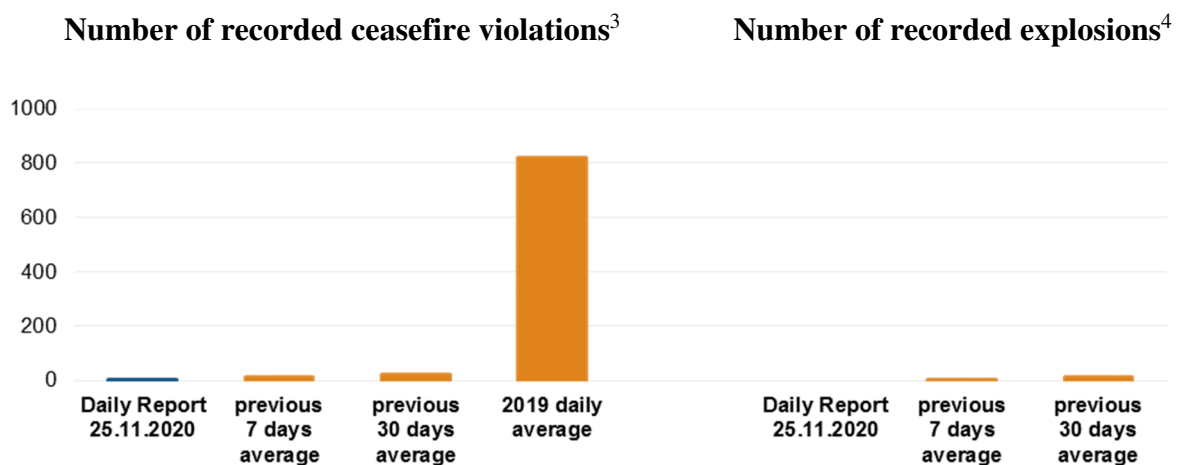
# Daily Report 281/2020

25 November 2020<sup>1</sup>

## Summary

- The SMM recorded five ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in Donetsk region and none in Luhansk region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at six entry-exit checkpoints and three checkpoints of the armed formations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Bezimenne and Olenivka, Donetsk region.\*

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



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 24 November 2020. 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, the SMM cameras in Petrivske and at the parking lot south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were not operational.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions

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

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

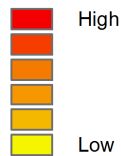


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 24 November 2020



#### 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: 25/11/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded five ceasefire violations – three shots and two bursts of small-arms fire – all within a 5km radius of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded two ceasefire violations in the region, one of which was an undetermined explosion, also within a 5km radius of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, as in the [previous reporting period](#). The last time it recorded ceasefire violations in the region was during the day on 22 November (see [SMM Daily Report 23 November 2020](#)).

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 2,521 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 992 explosions, 75 projectiles in flight, 33 muzzle flashes, 27 illumination flares and 1,394 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) at the northern edge of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), one of whom walked into the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. Inside the area, about 350m north of its southern edge, the Mission saw another two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them).

While positioned on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw a car with two men in military-type clothing driving west on road C-051532 between Petrivske and Viktorivka (non-government-controlled, 42km south-west of Donetsk), north of the northern edge of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, and then returning.

### **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<sup>6</sup>**

The Mission observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region and in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

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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.

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

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

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable railway inspection and maintenance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk) and between non-government-controlled Yasne (30km south-west of Donetsk) and Olenivka (23km south-west of Donetsk), repairs to power lines in Donetsk city's Petrovskiyi district (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of Donetsk city centre), repairs to water infrastructure near Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), as well as demining activities between government-controlled Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Orikhove (57km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned about 1km north-west of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission heard three shots and two bursts of small arms-fire, all assessed as within a 5km radius of the station.

## **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 were closed for civilian traffic.

The SMM also noted that the EECPs near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) and near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) were operational but did not observe any civilian traffic.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational. While at the EECP, the SMM saw pedestrian traffic in both directions and two golf carts operating between the EECP and the new section of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

The Mission 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 remained closed.

Near the latter checkpoint, the Mission observed 20 workers with heavy equipment constructing metal steps and two metal sheds for public toilets, painting metal structures and digging a hole, reportedly for a septic tank. The SMM also observed 11 workers clearing vegetation along several sections of road H-21, south-east of the checkpoint.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Dnipro, Lviv, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, 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 (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 23 November 2020](#)) 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:

- At a checkpoint near Bezimenne (non-government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), three visibly armed members of the armed formations (men in their thirties) denied the SMM passage further west, referring to a need for permission from their 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.

Conditional access:

- On two separate occasions at a checkpoint near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations allowed the SMM to proceed only after a delay.

Other impediments:

- A representative (woman, age unknown) of those in control in Shakhtarsk (non-government-controlled, 50km east of Donetsk) told the Mission by phone that she would not share information on a reported civilian casualty and referred the SMM to those in control.
- On three occasions, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, once while flying over areas near Pyshchevyk (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk) and twice near Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's positions.

**Table of indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
24/11/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-60)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in Krasnohorivka (24km north of Donetsk)	
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
23/11/2020	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	In a compound in Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

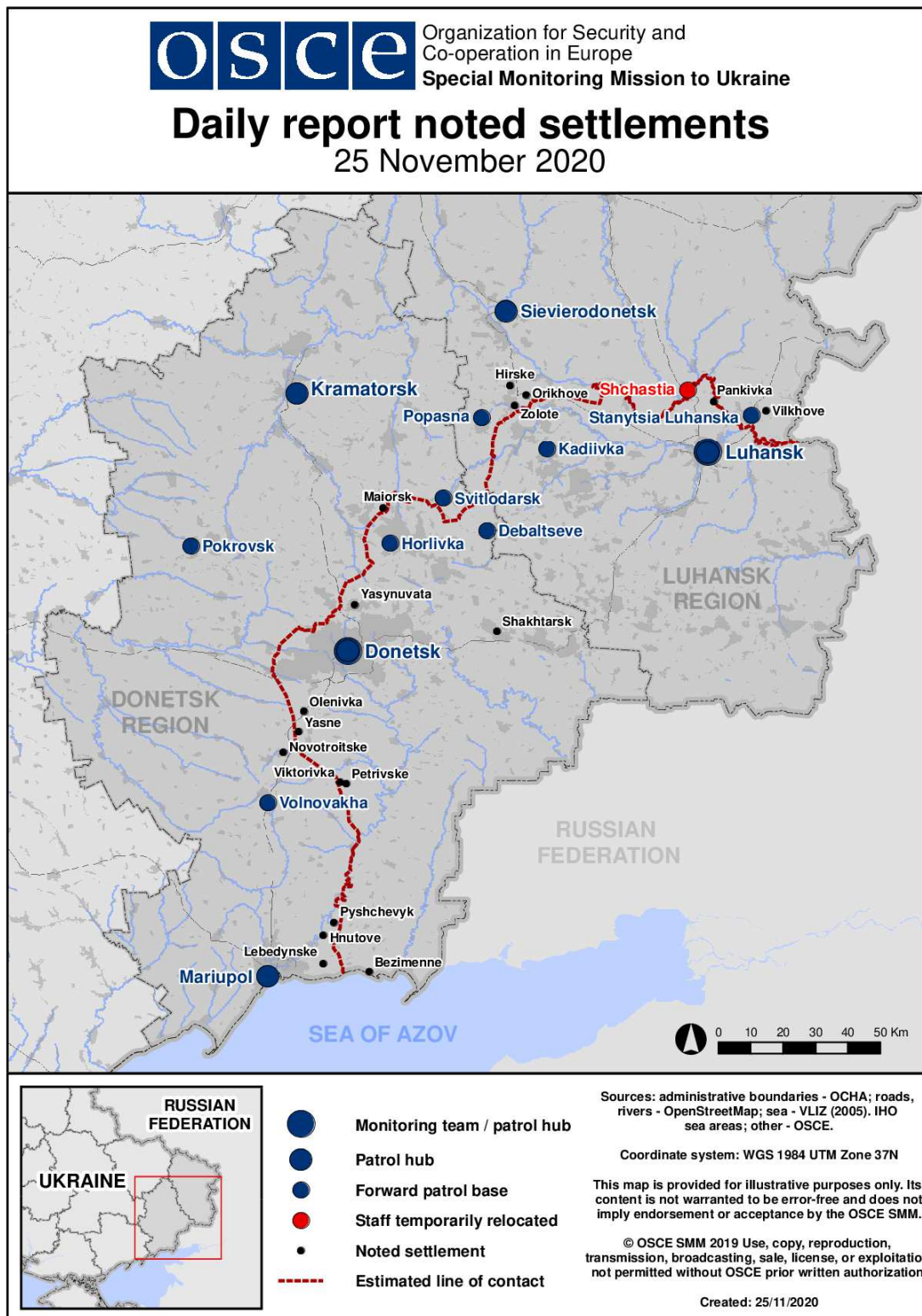
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 24 November 2020<sup>9</sup>**

<b>SMM position</b>	<b>Event location</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Date, time</b>
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km WSW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	24-Nov, 11:55
	1-2km N	Heard	2	Burst		Small arms	24-Nov, 12:30

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<sup>9</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>10</sup>



<sup>10</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).