

Daily Report 292/2020

8 December 2020¹

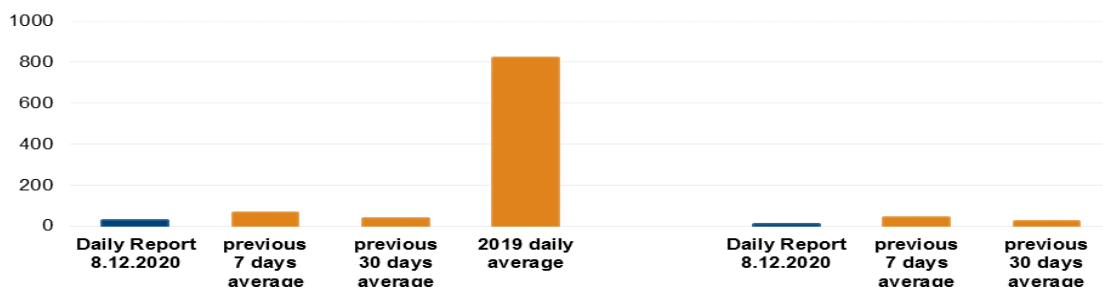
Summary

- The SMM recorded 28 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded eight ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM observed weapons in violation of withdrawal lines in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction, maintenance and operation of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 7 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational.

³ Including explosions

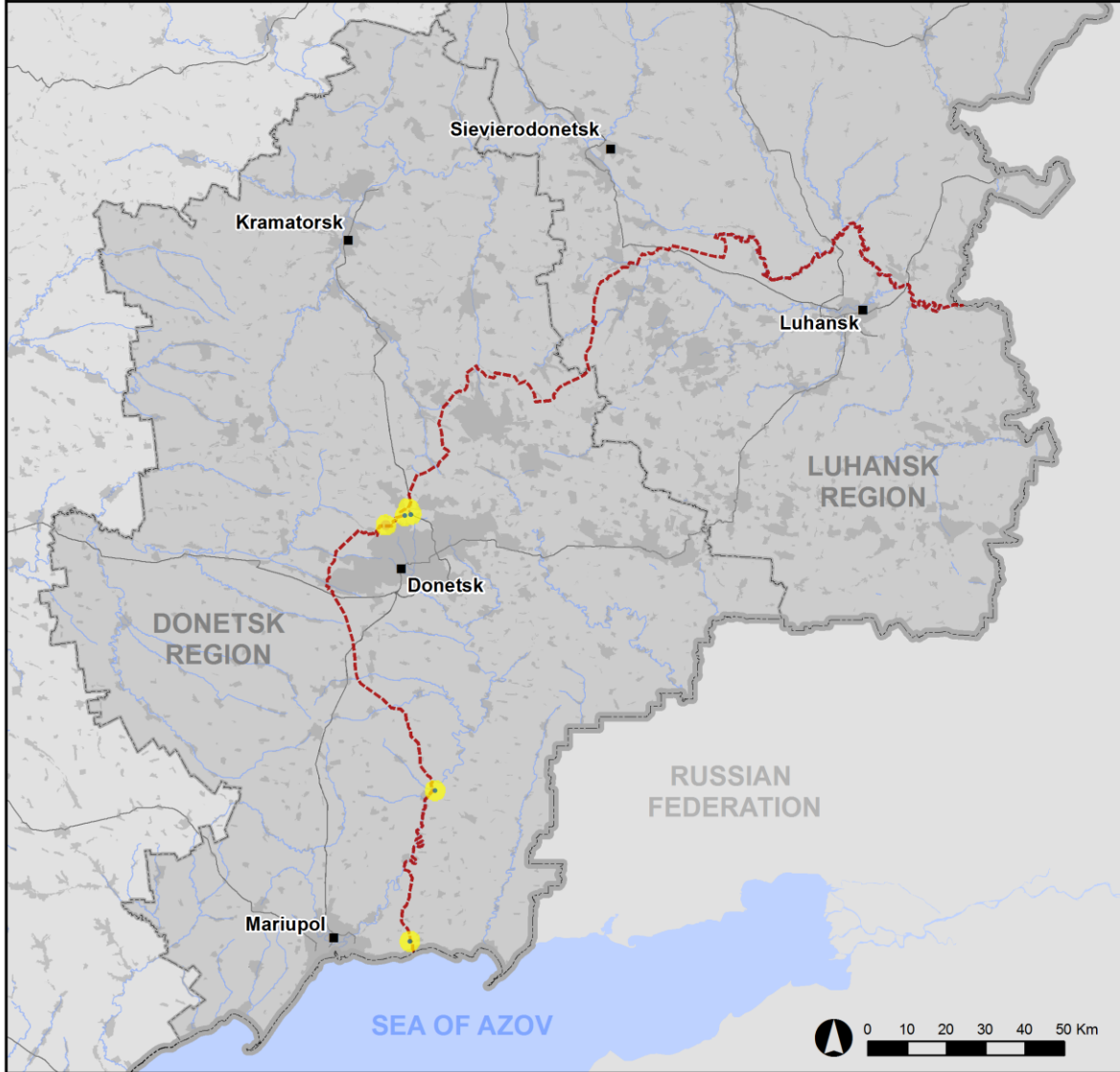
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

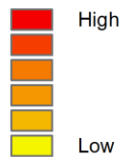


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 7 December 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: 08/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 28 ceasefire violations, including 12 shots of small-arms fire in an area north of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk) and three undetermined explosions recorded during the day on 7 December in an area south of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the region, including seven bursts and shots of small-arms fire near the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded eight ceasefire violations in the region, all undetermined explosions.

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 3,246 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,347 explosions, 110 projectiles in flight, 37 muzzle flashes, 38 illumination flares and 1,714 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

The SMM observed two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), on the southern edge of the repaired span 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 SMM saw up to eight members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), of whom three by foot and two on a civilian car entered the disengagement area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. It also observed an ambulance with four people wearing hazmat suits driving to the same location inside the area and then returning.

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

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw three self-propelled howitzers in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. In the same training area, beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, it also saw 13 tanks (for further details, see tables below).

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

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

While positioned near Petrivske, the SMM saw a tractor transporting a trench digger on road C-051532 towards Styła (non-government-controlled, 34km south of Donetsk) (for further details, see table below).

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

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), repairs to water infrastructure near Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk) and maintenance of and repairs to a power line near Smile (non-government-controlled, 31km north-west of Luhansk).

The Mission also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk), Hirske (63km west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned at a location close to the station, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions within a 5km radius of the DFS.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission 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 operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with pedestrians queueing to travel in both directions.

The Mission also 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.

SMM met with an interlocutor in Zakarpattia region

On 7 December, in Siurte (189km west of Ivano-Frankivsk), a representative (man in his sixties) of the local amalgamated territorial community council told the SMM that participants to the inaugural meeting of the council on 21 November had sung the Hungarian

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

anthem. On 4 December, representatives of the Security Service of Ukraine told the SMM that an investigation was ongoing in relation to the abovementioned event.⁷

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Dnipro, Lviv, 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 1 December 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.

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:

- On 7 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km north-west of Donetsk).⁸

⁷ On 4 December, a representative (man, in his forties) of a Ukrainian patriotic organization in Zakarpattia region, told the SMM that the Hungarian anthem had been sung within the local population along with the Ukrainian anthem for many years and that there had been no issues in the past (see [SMM Daily Report 4 December 2020](#)).

⁸ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAV's position.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
5/12/2020	3	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
5/12/2020	13	Tank (T-72B)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
7/12/2020	1	Trench digger (PZM-3)	Near Styla (34km south of Donetsk)	Patrol

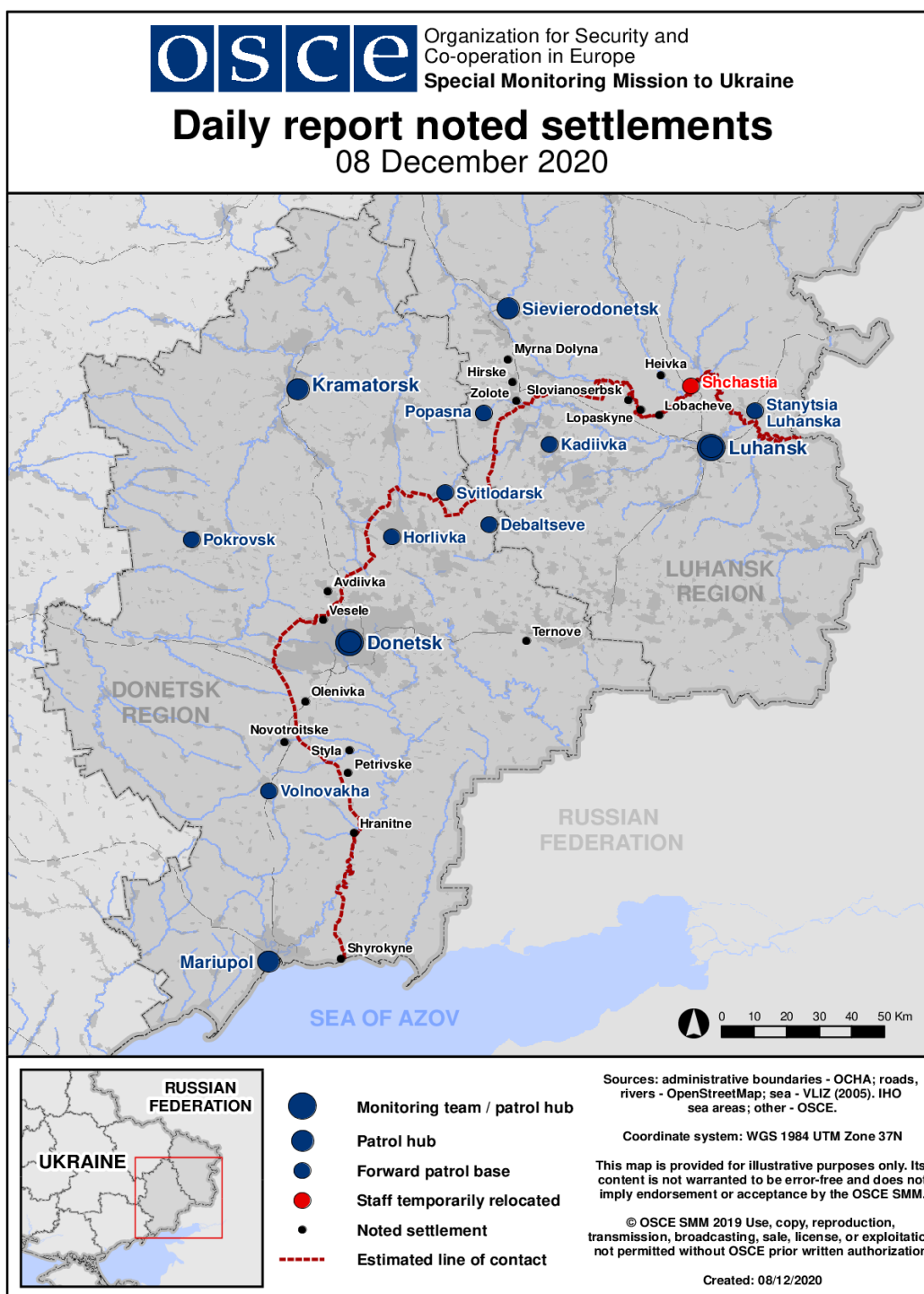
⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 7 December 2020¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, Time
SMM camera in Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	6-Dec, 20:00
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	6-Dec, 20:02
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE (also recorded by the SMM camera at the DFS)	N/K	6-Dec, 20:02
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 20:00
	1-3km SSW	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	6-Dec, 20:01
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Dec, 00:50
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 17:13
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	5	Projectile	WNW to ESE	N/K	6-Dec, 17:51
About 300m W of Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	1-2km N	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	7-Dec, 09:41-09:56
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Dec, 10:05
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Dec, 10:52
	3-5km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	7-Dec, 13:03

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.

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).