

Daily Report 293/2020

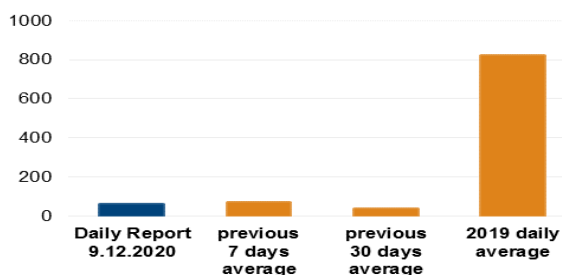
9 December 2020¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded 16 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM recorded 45 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, the Mission recorded no 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 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 observed a calm situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near non-government-controlled Korsun and Oleksandrivske, both in Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 8 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 cameras in Zolote and in Petrivske were not operational.

³ Including explosions

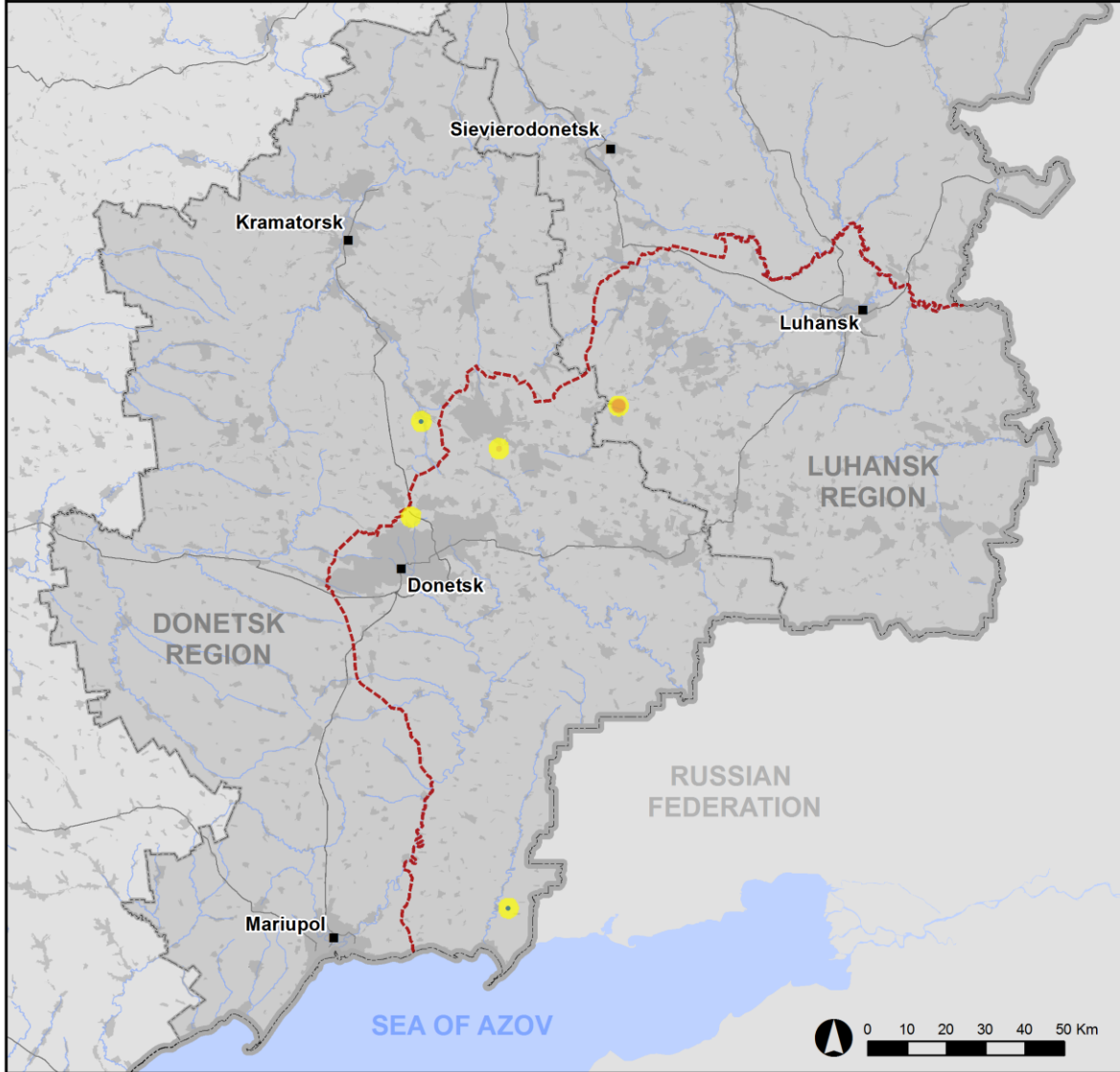
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

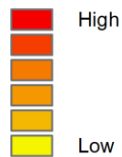


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 8 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: 09/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 16 ceasefire violations, including eight bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire in an area north-east of Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk), as well as five undetermined explosions in an area east of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 45 ceasefire violations, all shots and burst of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire in an area south-east of Depreradivka (non-government-controlled, 65km west of Luhansk), assessed as a live-fire exercise inside the security zone, in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the TCG 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 3,307 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,354 explosions, 110 projectiles in flight, 37 muzzle flashes, 39 illumination flares and 1,767 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 five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom twice walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

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 six tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the table below).

Vertical underground chambers on road M-04 near Kashtanove, Donetsk region

On 8 December, about 1km north of Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk), the Mission saw that four [previously observed](#) vertical underground chambers extending under both lanes of road M-04 had been filled with sand and gravel.

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

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

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), and an inspection of and repairs to water infrastructure in Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 61km west of Luhansk).

The SMM 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 Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable a transfer of funds from non-government- to government-controlled areas across the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), reportedly related to water payments.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, on 7 December, the SMM saw that a checkpoint of the armed formations near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk) was operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through towards non-government-controlled areas of both Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

On 8 December, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic.

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 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. At the latter checkpoint, the SMM saw ten workers on the eastern and western edges of road H-21 installing fences up to about 100m north of the checkpoint.

Event in Zakarpattia region

On 7 December, at 4 Narodna Square in Uzhhorod (182km west of Ivano-Frankivsk), the SMM monitored the inaugural session of the Zakarpattia regional council. During the session, there was an announcement that all eight deputies of a political party affiliated with the local Hungarian community would not vote to elect the head of the regional council as a sign of protest against recent developments in the region. Subsequently, all eight deputies proceeded to leave.

Before the session, the SMM saw a group of 20 people at the same location protesting against illegal constructions and the extraction of natural gas on a nearby mountain. The SMM also saw about 25 police officers both outside and inside the building.

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

On 6 December, the SMM observed a calm situation at a checkpoint near Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson) and near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson).

The SMM continued monitoring in 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.

Denials of access:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage, citing the “closure of the road”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM heard eight ceasefire violations (see above).
- On the same day, at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south, citing “ongoing training 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 withdrawal lines

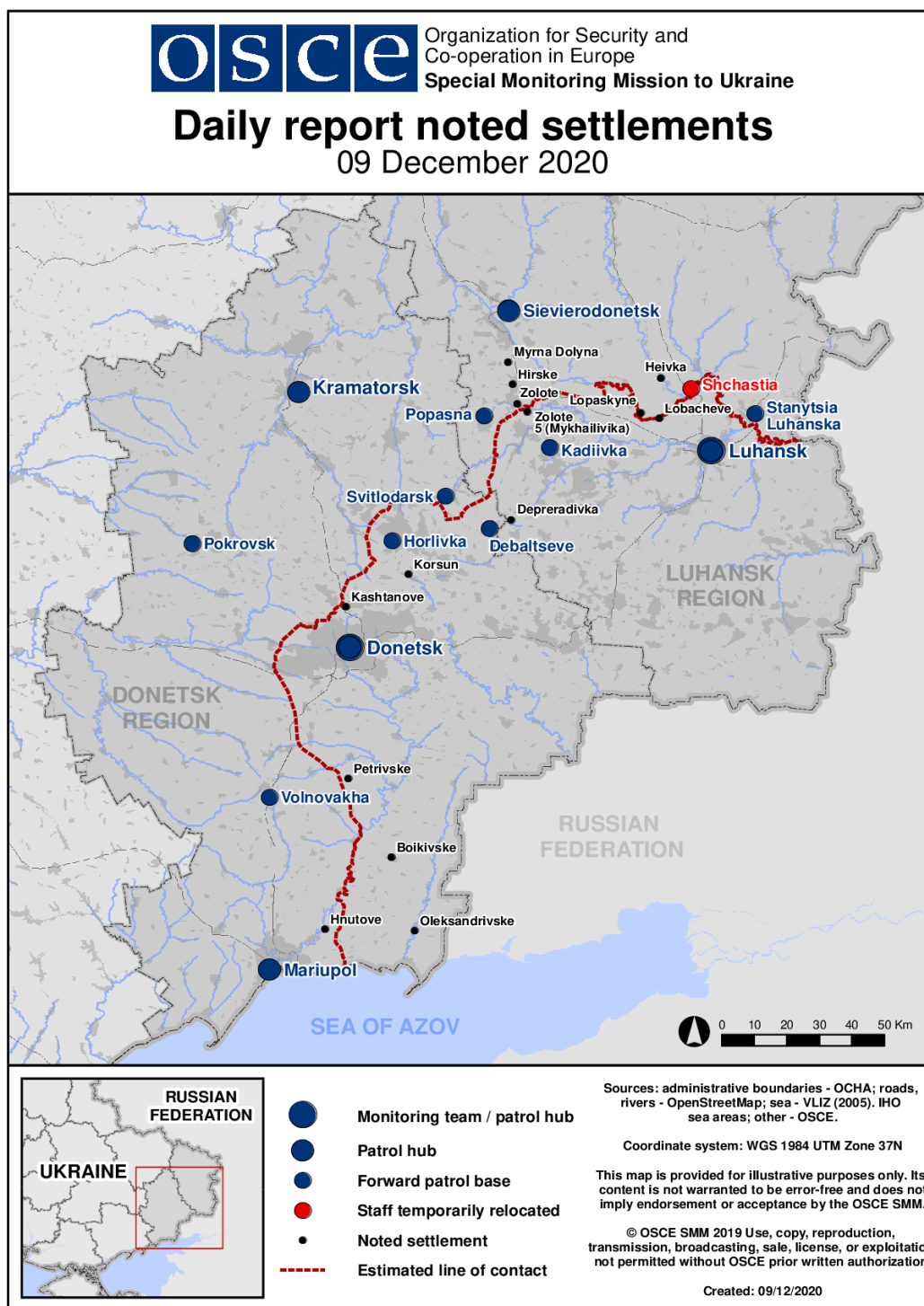
Date	No. of weapons	Type	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
8/12/2020	6	Tank (type unknown)	In a training area near Boikivske (formerly Telmanove, 67km south-east of Donetsk)	Patrol

Table of ceasefire violations as of 8 December 2020⁶

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, Time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight (also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka)	N/K	7-Dec, 20:23
About 1.5km NNE of Korsun (non-government-controlled, 31km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km NNE	Heard	8	Burst		HMG	8-Dec, 10:10
About 1km ESE of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh, non-government-controlled, 90km SE of Donetsk)	1-3km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Dec, 10:00
	1-3km E	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Dec, 10:12
About 600m SE of Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	8-Dec, 12:15
Deprerativka (non-government-controlled, 65km W of Luhansk)	1-2km ESE	Heard	5	Burst	Assessed as live-fire exercise	HMG	8-Dec, 09:45-10:05
	1-2km ESE	Heard	40	Shot	Assessed as live-fire exercise	Small arms	8-Dec, 09:45-10:05

⁶ 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 regions⁷



⁷ 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).