

Daily Report 296/2020

12 December 2020¹

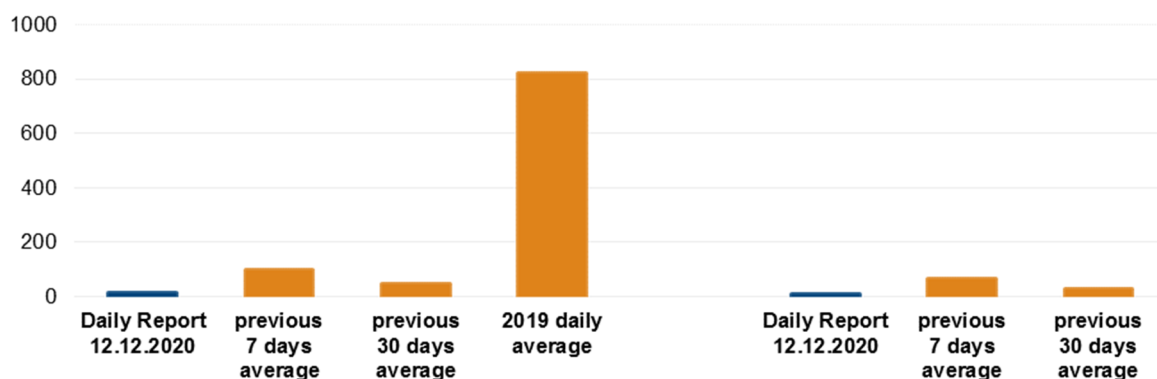
Summary

- The SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 284 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded six ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and saw people inside the latter two areas.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the construction and maintenance of and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and one checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM continued monitoring the situation in Zakarpattia region.
- The Mission'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, 11 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

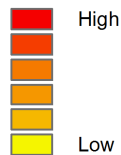


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 11 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: 12/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 13 ceasefire violations, including four undetermined explosions at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and four undetermined explosions in an area south of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 284 ceasefire violations (265 explosions) in the region, the majority of them undetermined explosions at northerly directions of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded six ceasefire violations in the region.

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 3,617 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,634 explosions, 117 projectiles in flight, 51 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and 1,774 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 11 December, while positioned near the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission observed a calm situation inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**.

During the night of 10-11 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted three people inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 600m south-west of the area's north-eastern corner.

On 11 December, while positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the SMM saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them), three of whom, accompanied by three people in medical protective gear, walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 10 December, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person near a former position of the armed formations near the area's south-eastern corner.

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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM spotted four tanks in two training areas in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region.

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

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

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

The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the inspection and repair of power lines west of Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and the construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk).

It 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). While positioned on the south-eastern edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission heard three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-3km south, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint near Olenivka were operational, with pedestrians and vehicles passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the Mission noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska as well as the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were 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. At the latter checkpoint, the SMM saw three workers painting a fence on the eastern side of the checkpoint.

The SMM continued to follow up on events in Zakarpattia region

On 10 December, the Mission spoke with the Consul General of the Republic of Hungary in Uzhhorod regarding the recent events in Zakarpattia region.

On 8 December, in Berehove (174km south-west of Ivano-Frankivsk) the Mission observed the inaugural session of the Berehove District Council, at which the council head – a member of the Hungarian community – was elected.

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

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

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
10/12/2020	1	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk), where also 17 armoured combat vehicles (types undetermined) were observed. ⁷	Long-range UAV
	3	Tank (probable T-72)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh,, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
10/12/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Starohnativka (51km south of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
11/12/2020	2	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	Near a residential area near Bolotene (22km north-east of Luhansk)	Patrol

⁷ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this section are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

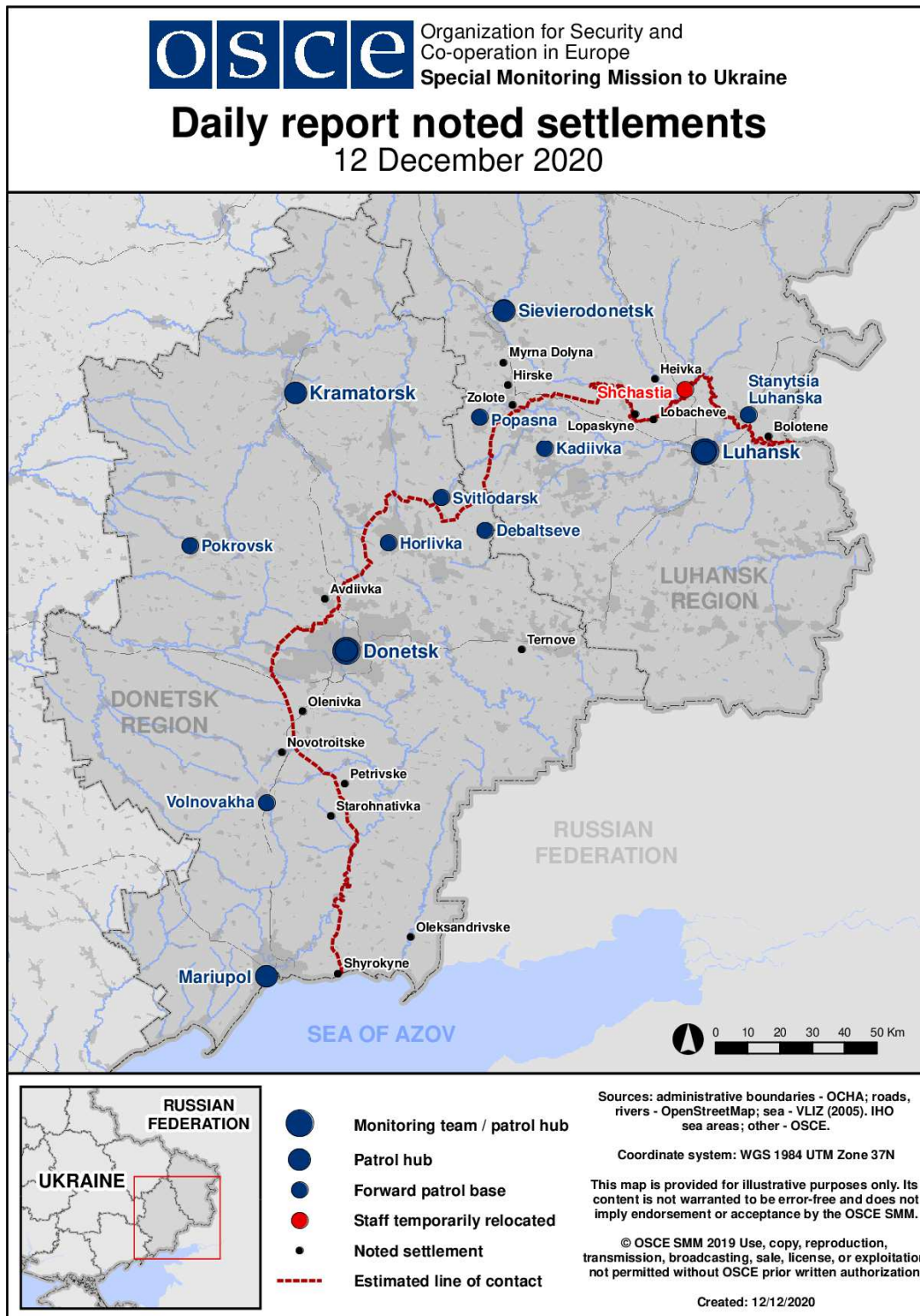
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 11 December 2020⁹

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	2	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the DFS camera)	N/K	10-Dec, 22:37
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the DFS camera)	N/K	10-Dec, 22:58
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	10-Dec, 19:45
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	10-Dec, 20:45
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	10-Dec, 23:43
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	11-Dec, 00:56
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	11-Dec, 00:57
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	11-Dec, 00:57
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Dec, 01:04
	2-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Dec, 04:08
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	11-Dec, 18:25

⁹ 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 regions¹⁰



¹⁰ 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).