



Daily Report 303/2020

21 December 2020¹

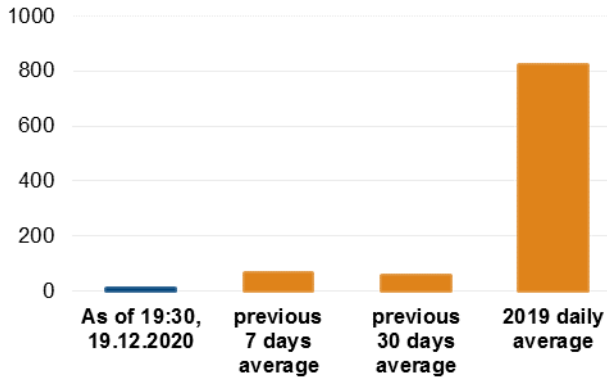
Summary

- Between the evenings of 18 and 20 December, the SMM recorded at least 98 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 232 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Between the evenings of 18 and 20 December, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded two ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and observed people inside the Petrivske disengagement area during the day on 20 December.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction and repairs to critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at three entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske), Donetsk region.*

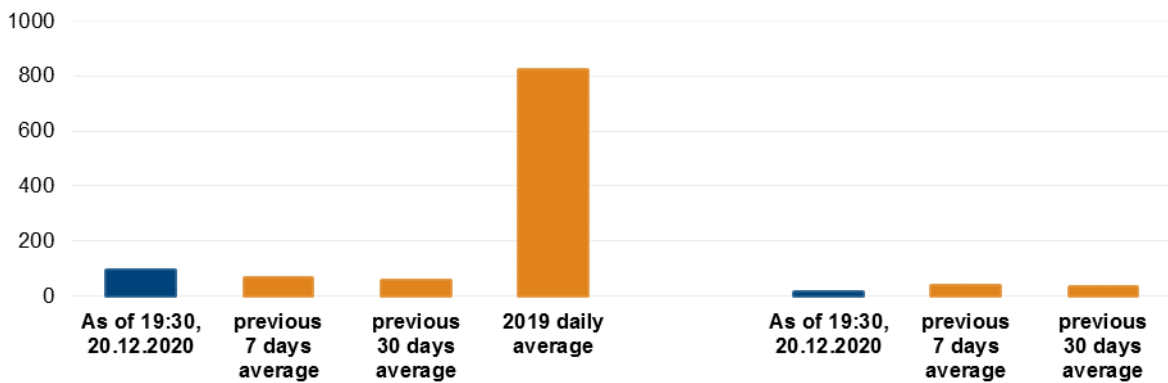
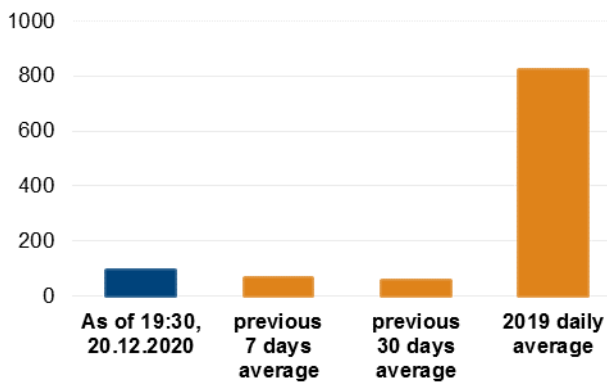
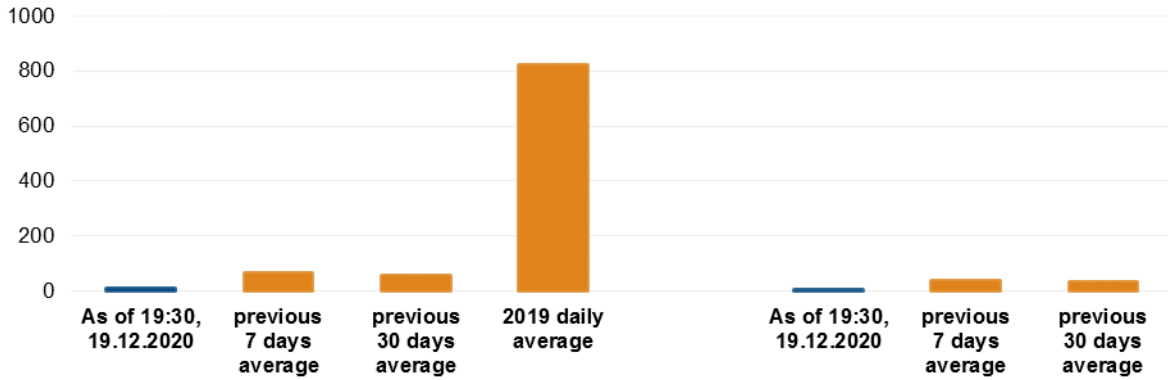
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³



Number of recorded explosions⁴

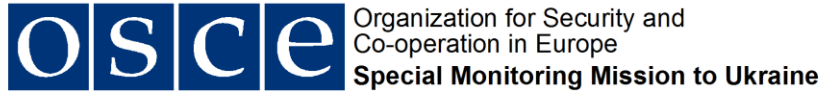


² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

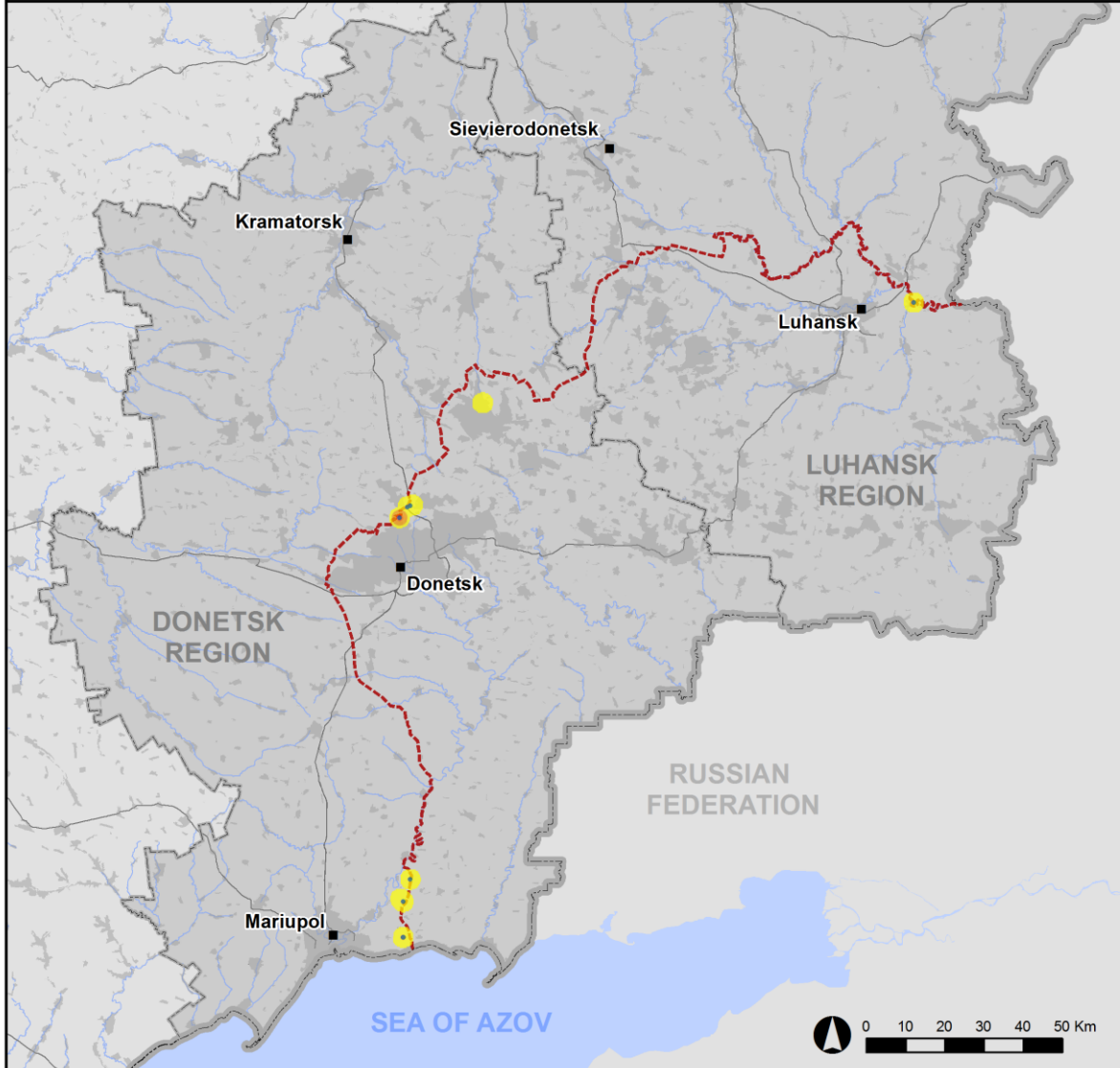
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

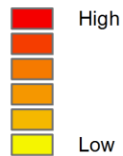
Map of recorded ceasefire violations



Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 19-20 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: 21/12/2020

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 18 and 20 December, the Mission recorded at least 98 ceasefire violations, including 16 undetermined explosions (including one impact), of which at least 79 ceasefire violations were recorded during the day on 20 December in an area north of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 232 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 18 and 20 December, the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation, an undetermined explosion, in an area north-west of Pionerske (non-government-controlled, 19km east of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded two 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 at least 4,185 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,906 explosions, 244 projectiles in flight, 55 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and at least 1,939 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 19 and 20 December, the SMM observed 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).

On both days, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), some of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned. On 20 December, two people in medical protective gear driving an ambulance also entered the area to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned.

On 19 December, about 20m south of the same checkpoint on road T-1316, the SMM observed two workers with heavy equipment moving a concrete block across the road to its eastern side.

Also on 19 December, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

On 20 December, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the SMM observed three men in military-style clothing entering and exiting a tarpaulin shelter (seen for the first time) inside the area, about 100m south-west of its north-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.

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

On 19 December, beyond withdrawal lines, but outside designated storage areas, the SMM saw 12 self-propelled howitzers at a railway station in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

Permanent storage sites

At a permanent storage site in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region

20 December

The SMM noted that all previously observed weapons were present.

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

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

On 17 December, while conducting a mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight in an area near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), the Mission observed a person pointing a probable long-barrelled weapon at the UAV (see below).

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

On 19 December, the Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk).

On 19 and 20 December, the SMM also 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), and repairs to a water conduit between government-controlled Raihorodka (34km north-west of Luhansk) and Lopaskyne.

On both days, the SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, on 19 December, the Mission observed that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, on 19 December, at the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk), the SMM observed seven workers installing fences about 20m south of the checkpoint, on the eastern edge of the road, as well as seven workers with a tractor perforating the ground and digging ditches on its western edge, assessed as for sewage systems and water pipes.

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

On 19 and 20 December, the SMM noted that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint on the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were operational, with pedestrians queuing to travel in both directions. On both days, the Mission also saw a golf cart operating between the EECP and the repaired section of the bridge.

On both days, 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.

On 20 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission observed five stationary units of construction equipment and machinery.

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 (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 15 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.

Denial:

- On 19 December, at a checkpoint of the armed formations west of Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations (man in his twenties or thirties) denied the SMM passage towards Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing demining activities in the area”. While there, the Mission observed a car passing through the checkpoint.

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 17 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over trenches of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk) and those of the armed formations near Kashtanove (non-government-controlled, 13km north of Donetsk) (see above).
- On 19 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over the Petrovskyi district of Donetsk city (non-government-controlled, 15km south-west of the city centre).
- On 20 December, on three separate occasions, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over areas near the non-government-controlled Petrovskyi district of Donetsk city (15km south-west of the city centre) and near non-government-controlled Spartak (9km north of Donetsk), Yakovlivka (10km north of Donetsk).
- On 20 December, an SMM mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as probable jamming, while flying over areas near Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk).⁷

⁷ The interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' position.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
19/12/2020	12	Self-propelled howitzer (2S7 Pion, 203mm)	At the railway station in Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

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

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/12/2020	3	Probable armoured combat vehicle	Near Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
18/12/2020	1	Armoured combat vehicle	Near Shchastia (20km north of Luhansk)	

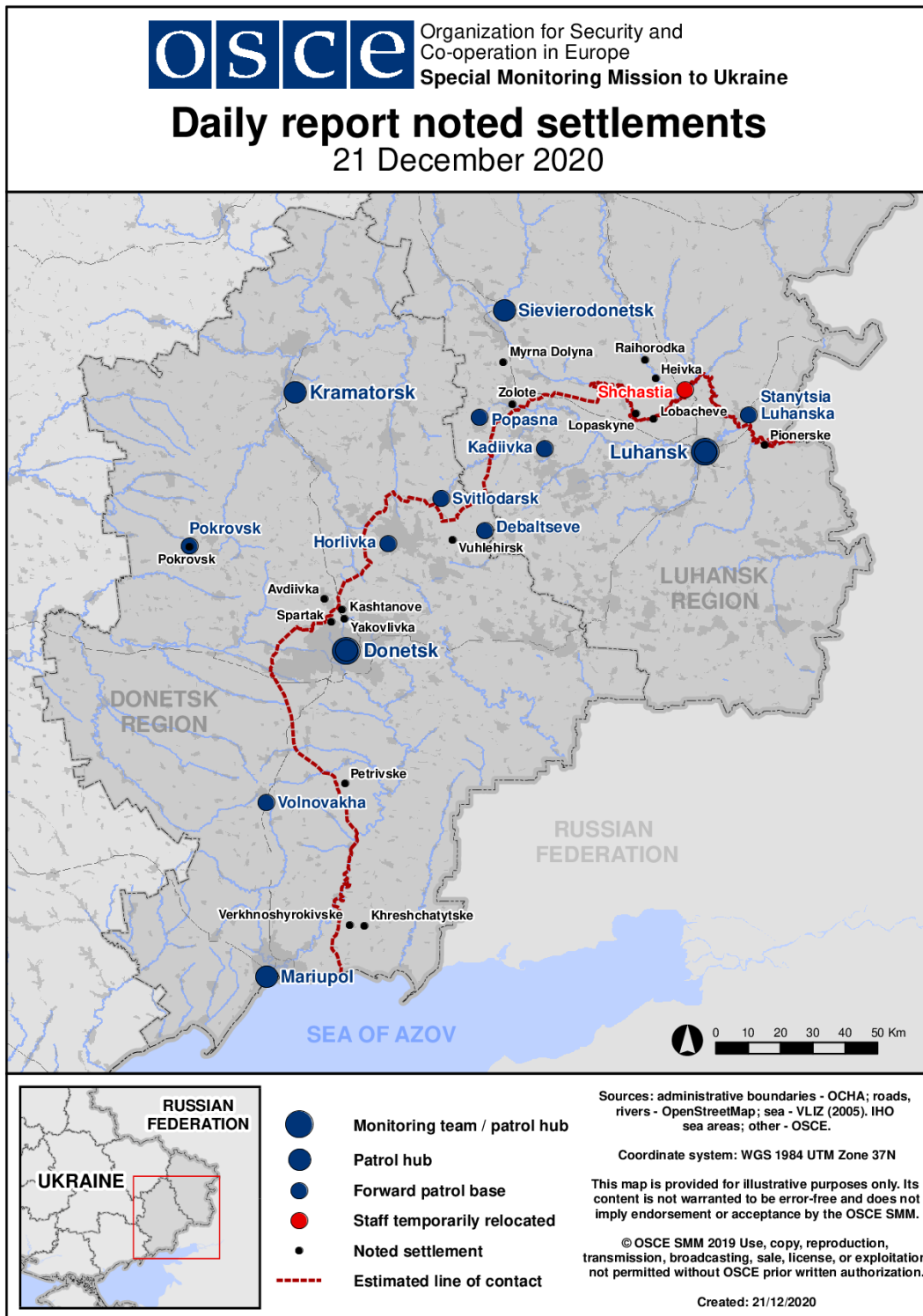
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 December 2020⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 19:27
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 19:27
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	19-Dec, 00:18
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE, subsequent to previous event	N/K	19-Dec, 00:18
	2-3km ENE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Impact, subsequent to previous event	N/K	19-Dec, 00:18
About 2km NE of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km S of Donetsk)	3-4km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 11:55
	2-3km SE	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	19-Dec, 12:16
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 20:52
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 21:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 21:30
	3-5km N	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 22:39
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-3km SSW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 18:40
Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km N of Donetsk)	1-2km N	Heard	12	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 11:54-12:00
	1-2km N	Heard	22	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 11:54-12:00
	1-2km N	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 11:54-12:00
	1-2km N	Heard	At least 24	Shot	Uncountable	Small arms and HMG	20-Dec, 11:54-12:00
	1-2km N	Heard	18	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 12:48-12:49
About 5km NE of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km NW	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 13:38
	2-3km NW	Heard	1	Shot		Small arms	20-Dec, 13:53
NW edge of Pionerske (non-government-controlled, 19km E of Luhansk)	1-3km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 11:09

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).