

Daily Report 287/2021

7 December 2021¹

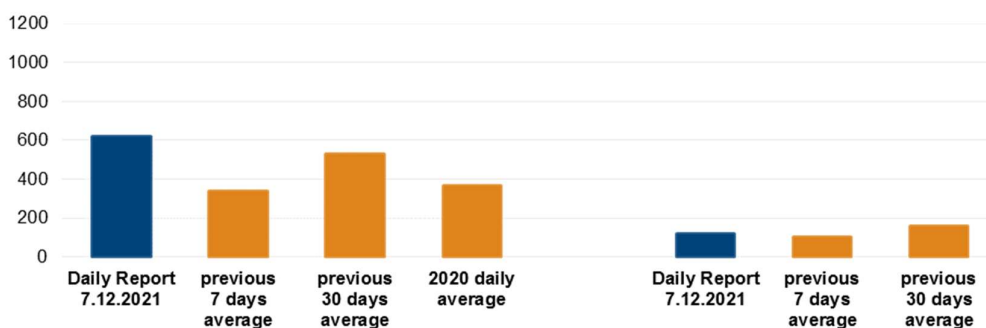
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 442 ceasefire violations, including 44 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 71 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 178 ceasefire violations, including 78 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM corroborated reports of two civilian casualties in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded ceasefire violations inside the disengagement area near Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM monitored areas near the border outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near Lisne, near non-government-controlled Kovske and at checkpoints of the armed formations near Horlivka and Khreshchatyske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske), Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



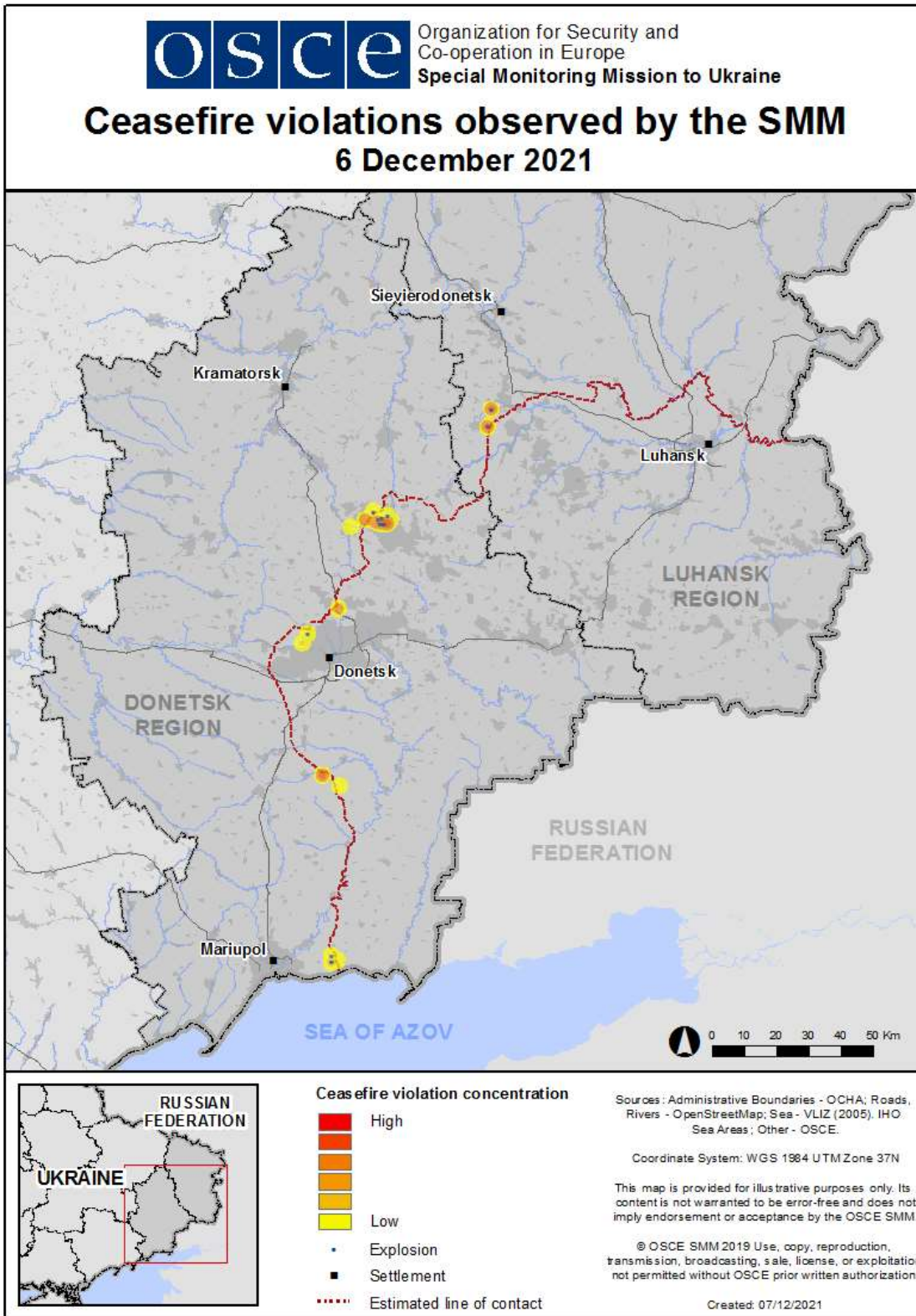
¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 6 December 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM cameras near Petrivske and near Stanytsia Luhanska were not operational and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 442 ceasefire violations, including 44 explosions (one impact and 43 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), south-east of Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk) and inside and north-west of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk). (See below.) In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 71 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 178 ceasefire violations, including 78 undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-west and north-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below.) In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region, all of which also occurred close to the disengagement area near Zolote.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding Measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 89,796 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 24,652 explosions, 21,308 projectiles in flight, 403 muzzle flashes, 390 illumination flares and at least 43,043 bursts and shots).

Two civilian casualties corroborated in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions

The Mission followed up on reports of two civilians injured near government-controlled Marinka (23km south-west of Donetsk) on 1 December and in Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk) on 29 November, respectively.

On 2 December, a man (in his forties), who introduced himself as an employee of an electrical company, told the Mission over the phone that, on the morning of 1 December, he and a colleague had been driving in a company car to conduct electrical repair works, when an explosion had occurred which hit the car near a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the south-eastern edge of Marinka. He added that he realized he had sustained an injury to his right leg and that he was subsequently taken to a hospital in Kurakhove (government-controlled, 40km west of Donetsk).

On 2 December, a police officer (man, age unknown) in Marinka told the SMM over the phone that on the morning of 1 December, a man (in his forties) had been injured in a car while on his way to conduct repair works near a checkpoint of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the vicinity of Marinka. He added that the police had not been able to reach the scene of the incident due to shelling in the area.

On the same day, medical staff (man, age unknown) at a hospital in Kurakhove told the Mission over the phone that on the afternoon of 1 December, a man (in his forties) had been admitted with wounds to his right leg, consistent with those caused by the detonation of an explosive object.

On 6 December, a man (in his fifties) told the Mission over the phone that on the afternoon of 29 November, he had been working at a train depot in the north-western part of Stanytsia Luhanska, when he had heard explosions nearby and felt that he had sustained an injury to his head.

On 30 November, at a train depot at Depovska Street 1 in Stanytsia Luhanska, a woman (in her fifties) told the SMM that on the afternoon of the previous day, she had heard explosions nearby, while she had been working inside an administrative building. She added that subsequently, she saw a colleague (man, in his fifties) bleeding from his head.

On the same day, medical staff (woman in her fifties) at a hospital in Stanytsia Luhanska told the Mission that on the afternoon of 29 November, a man (in his fifties) had been admitted with a head injury, which she assessed as caused by shrapnel.

For observations of damage to the abovementioned train depot, please see [SMM Daily Report of 2 December 2021](#)).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 6 December, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) about 50m south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

During the day, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM heard 54 undetermined explosions and 36 bursts and shots of heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the area’s southern edge and inside the disengagement area. It saw that the previously reported road barriers across road T-1316, on the area’s southern edge, continued to be closed.

During the day, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard four shots of small-arms fire, assessed as inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske**. While positioned about 2km east of Bohdanivka (government-controlled, 41km south-west of Donetsk), the SMM also heard 97 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, assessed as outside the area but within 5km of its periphery.

Weapons storage sites

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

6 December

The SMM noted that one tank (T-72) was missing, compared with the previous visit on 9 September 2021.

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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the Mission saw a mortar south-east of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska and six howitzers near Bile (22km west of Luhansk), all in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw one anti-aircraft system in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, in a residential area, and 27 tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM observed two armoured combat vehicles and a probable electronic warfare system (Suricatta-Bukovel type) in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, including in a residential area. In a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region it saw five armoured combat vehicles. (For further information, see the table below.)

Presence of mines and other obstacles between Pyshechyk and Verkhnohyrokiivske

On 5 December, an SMM mini-UAV spotted three anti-tank mines (not previously reported and not visible in imagery from 3 December 2021) mounted on a wooden board on a road 400m west of the western edge of Verkhnohyrokiivske (formerly Oktiabr, non-government-controlled, 85km south of Donetsk), assessed as belonging to the armed formations. The mines were placed next to five Czech hedgehogs (not previously reported).

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (DFS). While positioned on the western edge of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission heard 32 shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS, of which 12 occurred during the transfer of DFS workers between the station and Yasynuvata.

The SMM also monitored the security situation in the area of the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk) and facilitated the inspection of gas pipelines between Vodiane (government-controlled, 15km north-west of Donetsk) and Opytne (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints⁶

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed. The SMM also observed that the 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 open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

⁶In the SMM Daily Report 4 December 2021, the first sentence of the fourth paragraph should have read “Between 15:30 and 16:20, while on the eastern edge of Stanytsia Luhanska, the SMM heard 111 explosions and 90 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery”.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECF near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The Mission noted that the EECFs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, 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 were closed.

Along road T-1316, between the EECF near Zolote and the following intersection, on the western side of the road, the Mission observed that eight workers continued building a fence. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Report of 6 December 2021](#).)

Border areas outside government control⁷

The SMM monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Provallia (60km south-east of Luhansk) and Cheremshyne (59km south-east of Luhansk) and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Lviv, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, 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 Minsk agreements 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 of 30 November 2021](#)). 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:

- At a checkpoint near Lisne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), a soldier of the Ukrainian Armed Forces denied the Mission passage south of the settlement, citing “a lack of permission from superiors”.
- On a road near Kovske (non-government-controlled, 91km south of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage north towards Samiilove (non-government-controlled, 89km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing training activities” in the area.
- At a checkpoint near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied

⁷ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

the Mission passage west towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing de-mining and engineering activities” in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.

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.

Delay:

- At a checkpoint north-west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage towards non-government-controlled areas only after about 35 minutes of waiting.

Other impediments:⁸

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four flights: on two occasions while flying over areas near Zoria (government-controlled, 40km north-west of Donetsk) and once each while flying over areas near Trokhizbenka (government-controlled, 32km north-west of Luhansk) and Smile (non-government-controlled, 31km north-west of Luhansk).

⁸ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of tens of kilometres from the UAVs’ position.

Table of weapons
Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
05/12/2021	1	Mortar (2B14 <i>Podnos</i> , 82mm)	Near the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (16km north-east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
06/12/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
06/12/2021	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>)	In a residential area of Spirne (96km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
02/12/2021	27	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka (37km south-west of Luhansk), where imagery also revealed the presence of 67 armoured combat vehicles ⁹	Aerial imagery

Other weapons¹⁰

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
02/12/2021	10	Towed artillery (type undetermined)	In a training area near Buhaivka	Aerial imagery

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹¹

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
05/12/2021	2	Probable armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a residential area of Chernenko (86km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
06/12/2021	1	Probable electronic warfare system (Suricatta-Bukovel type)	Near Kamianka (20km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
05/12/2021	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (two BMP variants and one BTR variant)	Near Lobacheve (13km east of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	2	Probable armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		

⁹ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned in this table are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

¹⁰ The SMM was unable to assess whether these weapons were in violation of withdrawal lines in the absence of information on their calibre.

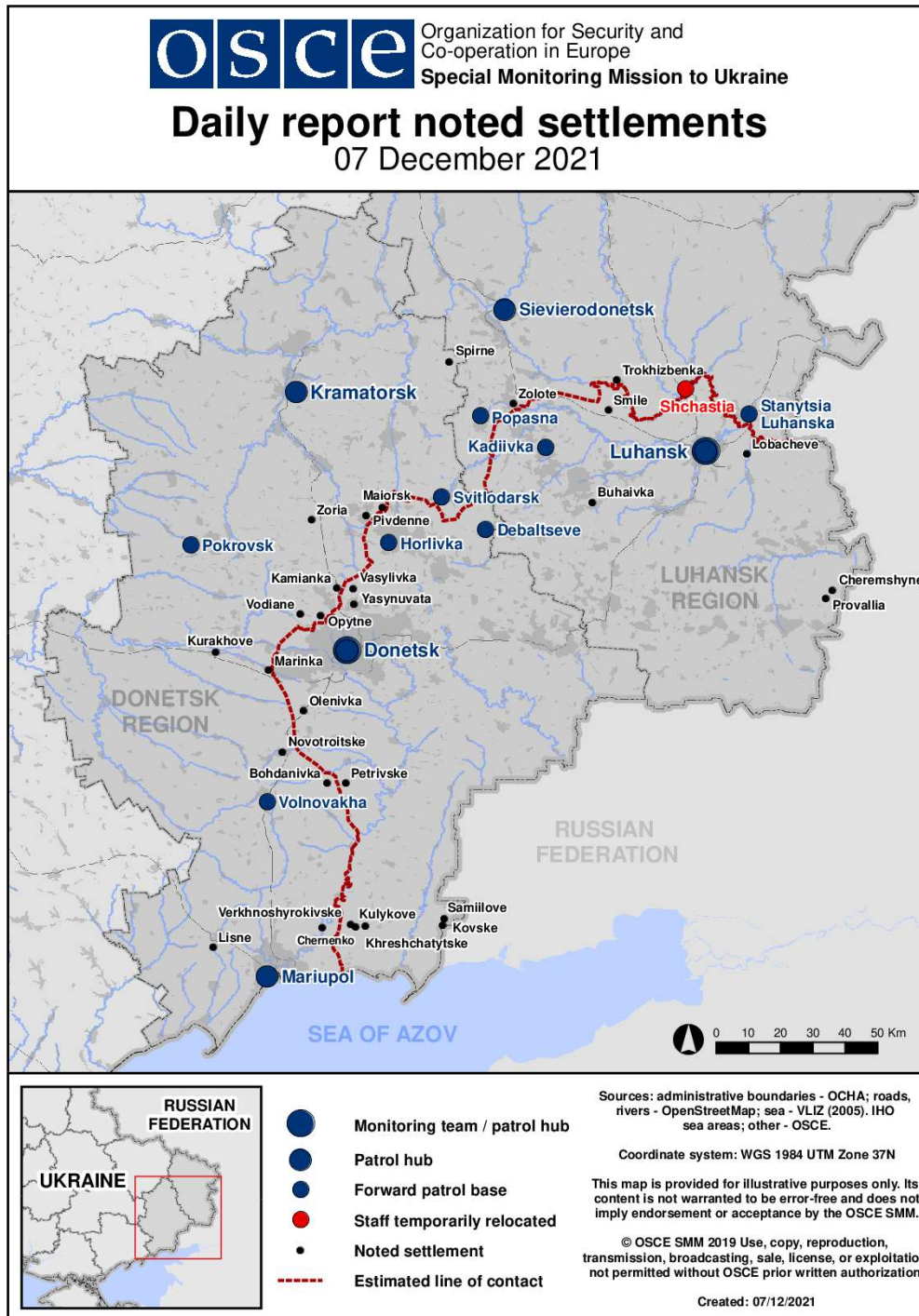
¹¹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 6 December 2021¹²

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	5-Dec, 19:17
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 22:05
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	E to W	N/K	5-Dec, 22:10
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 22:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	5-Dec, 22:33
	3-5km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	5-Dec, 22:43
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 01:16
About 500m ESE of Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km NE of Donetsk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 10:35-10:40
	1-2km SSE	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 10:35-10:40
	1-2km SSE	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 11:15-11:20
	1-2km SSE	Heard	7	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 11:15-11:20
	1-2km SSE	Heard	12	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 11:20
	1-2km SSE	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 11:20
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSW	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 11:40-11:45
about 2km WNW of Pisky (government-controlled, 12km NW of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 12:48
About 2km E of Bohdaniivka (government-controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	2-3km NW	Heard	97	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	HMG	6-Dec, 12:26-12:46
Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km S of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as inside the disengagement area	Small arms	6-Dec, 11:33-11:36
Zhabunki (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	6km SW	Heard	8	Burst	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 12:28
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	12	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 13:26-13:30
	2-3km SW	Heard	20	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 13:33-13:40
About 6km NW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	1.5-2km WNW	Heard	28	Burst		Small arms	6-Dec, 10:40
	1.5-2km WNW	Heard	26	Burst		Small arms	6-Dec, 10:45
About 5km NE of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km W	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:00
	4-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:26
	2km NW	Heard	6	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 15:34
	4-5km WNW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:50
	4-5km W	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:56
	2-3km W	Heard	100	Shot		Small arms	6-Dec, 15:56
	3-4km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:59
	3-4km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Impact	N/K	6-Dec, 15:59
	4-5km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:59
	3-4km W	Heard	20	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 16:00-16:02
About 7km NW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 16:02
	2-4km SW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:02-15:03
	2-4km SW	Heard	5	Burst		HMG	6-Dec, 15:59-16:02
	2-4km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:59-16:02
Near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km W	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 15:05
Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-7km SE	Heard	24	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 14:50-15:45
	3-7km SE	Heard	64	Shots and bursts		HMG	6-Dec, 14:50-15:45
	3-7km ENE	Heard	54	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	6-Dec, 14:50-15:45
	3-7km ENE	Heard	36	Shots and bursts		HMG	6-Dec, 14:50-15:45

¹² 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 regions¹³



¹³ 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).