

Daily Report 293/2021

14 December 2021¹

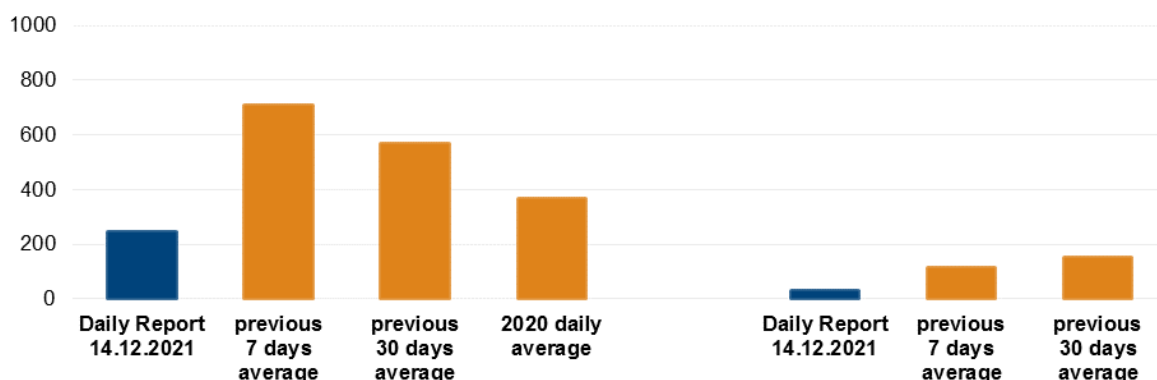
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 127 ceasefire violations, including 11 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 164 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 126 ceasefire violations, including 18 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 278 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM saw damage to a residential property in non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region, and to a storage building in government-controlled Muratove, Luhansk region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at a Mission mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near non-government-controlled Zhovte, Luhansk region.*
- Members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage near Zolote and Molodizhne, Luhansk region.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and the four corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at three checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Its unmanned aerial vehicles encountered instances of GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 13 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, one of the SMM cameras in Hnutove was not operational, and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

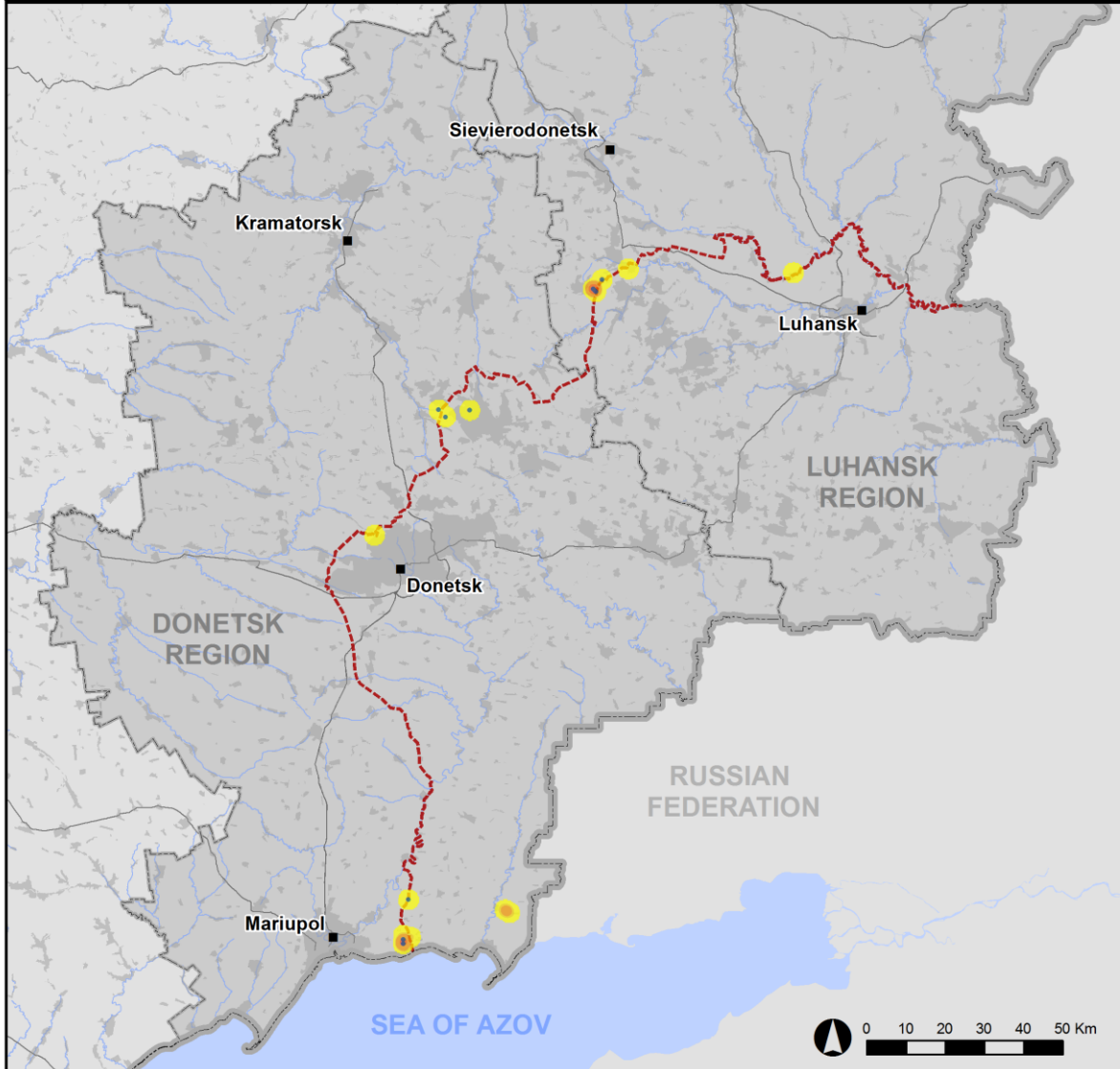
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

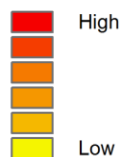


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 13 December 2021



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: 14/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 127 ceasefire violations, including 11 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). Additionally, the Mission recorded 30 ceasefire violations near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), assessed as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 164 ceasefire violations in the region, most of which also occurred in areas near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 126 ceasefire violations, including 18 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas near the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below.) In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 278 ceasefire violations in the region, most 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 94,376 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 25,353 explosions, 22,919 projectiles in flight, 414 muzzle flashes, 404 illumination flares and at least 45,278 bursts and shots).

Damage to a residential property in non-government-controlled Horlivka, Donetsk region and to a storage building in government-controlled Muratove, Luhansk region

On 12 December, in the northern part of Muratove (government-controlled, 51km north-west of Luhansk), at a storage building on Molodizhna Street, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a hole in the south-eastern corner of the building's roof, and debris scattered on the ground next to it. The UAV also spotted a probable impact crater in the building's floor underneath the aforementioned damaged roof. The Mission assessed the damage as recent and caused by a probable mortar round.

On 13 December, on a local road in front of a building at 129 Stozhka Street, in the Shakhta Haharina settlement on the north-western outskirts of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission saw a crater. About 25m south-south-west of the crater, it observed five holes in three north-facing windows of a two-storey inhabited apartment building. About 1m south of the crater, it saw marks in the trunk of a tree. The Mission assessed the crater and damage as recent and caused by an unknown weapon fired from a south-westerly direction and shrapnel due to a subsequent explosion.

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-UAV near non-government-controlled Zhovte, Luhansk region

While positioned in Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the SMM heard six shots and bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 1.5km north, assessed as targeting the UAV. During the same flight, the mini-UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area.*

Armed formations twice denied the SMM passage at their checkpoints near Zolote and Molodizhne, Luhansk region

On the morning of 13 December, the armed formations in Luhansk region twice denied the Mission passage to non-government-controlled areas. In both instances, the SMM patrols were travelling from government-controlled areas.

The first denial occurred at 09:20, about 350m north of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote. The second occurred at 11:10, at a checkpoint of the armed formations on road T-0504 about 1.5km south-west of Molodizhne. Members of the armed formations cited a “lack of security guarantees” on the first occasion and “orders from their superiors” on the second. The SMM had preannounced its passage as a temporary, COVID-19 related courtesy. (See [SMM Spot Report 41/2021](#)).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

During the reporting period, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one projectile in flight, 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 three 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.

While positioned inside the area, the SMM also saw that the previously reported box and camera, both about 1km south of its northern edge, as well as the previously reported four crates and boxes and one anti-personnel mine, all between 450m-600m north of the area’s southern edge, continued to be present. It noted that previously reported metal spikes on the side of road T-1316, about 600m north of its southern edge, were no longer present. (For previous observations in the area, see [SMM Daily Reports of 2 December 2021](#) and [10 December 2021](#).)

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

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At three heavy weapons holding areas in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region
13 December

The SMM noted that 22 self-propelled howitzers (2S1 *Gvozdika*, 122mm) and nine towed howitzers (D-30, *Lyagushka*, 122mm) were present and that 15 self-propelled howitzers (2S1)

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

⁶ The SMM observed weapons that could not be verified as withdrawn, as their storage did not comply with the criteria set out in the 16 October 2015 notification from the SMM to the signatories of the Package of Measures on effective monitoring and verification of the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

and 13 towed howitzers (D-30) were missing since its last visits to these sites on 3 and 29 September 2021, respectively.

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 in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Mission observed 15 self-propelled howitzers, three self-propelled anti-aircraft systems and five surface-to-air missile systems, including at two compounds near residential areas and at a train station.. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission also observed four armoured combat vehicles in a compound in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of the operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (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 open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The SMM noted that the EECPs 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. It saw ongoing construction works between the EECP near Zolote and the intersection of road T-1316 and the road leading east toward Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk).

Areas near the border outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about ten minutes, the Mission observed one car (with “LPR” plates), one covered cargo truck, one bus (with “LPR” plates) and three people (one woman and two men, in their thirties and forties) entering Ukraine. At the same time, it saw no traffic exiting Ukraine. After ten minutes, a member of the armed formations asked the SMM to leave the area.*

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM saw no people entering or exiting Ukraine.

The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv

On 12 December, at the Alley of the Heavenly Hundred Heroes in Kyiv, the SMM observed about 50 people (mixed genders and ages) gathering on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. It saw that participants demanded the release of people allegedly “detained in Crimea, non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Russian Federation”. It observed two law enforcement officers and a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Chernivtsi.

***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 below). 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:

- At a checkpoint near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage east, citing “ongoing live-fire exercises”. A second member of the armed formations additionally did not allow the Mission to launch a UAV or to take photographs. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a border crossing point near Izvaryne (non-government-controlled, 52km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations asked the Mission to leave the area, citing “a lack of permission from those in control”.

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 of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), a member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage towards Horlivka only after about 25 minutes, citing “the need for permission from superiors”.

Other impediments:⁷

- An SMM mini-UAV was assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk). (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during eight flights: four times while flying over areas near Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk), and twice each near Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk), Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), and Oleksandrivsk (non-government-controlled, 10km west of Luhansk).

⁷ 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' positions.

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 | | | | |
| 11/12/2021 | 1 | Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>) | At two compounds near residential areas of Andriivka (61km south of Donetsk) | Mini-UAV |
| | 2 | Surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>) | | |
| 13/12/2021 | 2 | Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>) | Near Dmytrivka (55km south-west of Donetsk) | Patrol |
| | 3 | Probable surface-to-air missile system (9K35 <i>Strela-10</i>) | Near Anadol (65km south of Donetsk) | |
| | 15 | Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm) | At a train station in Rubizhne (84km north-west of Luhansk) | |

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

| Date | No. | Type of weapon | Location | Source of observation |
|------------------------------------|-----|--|--|-----------------------|
| Government-controlled areas | | | | |
| 12/12/2021 | 3 | Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2) | In a compound in Muratove (51km north-west of Luhansk) | Mini-UAV |
| | 1 | Armoured combat vehicle (type unknown) | | |

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

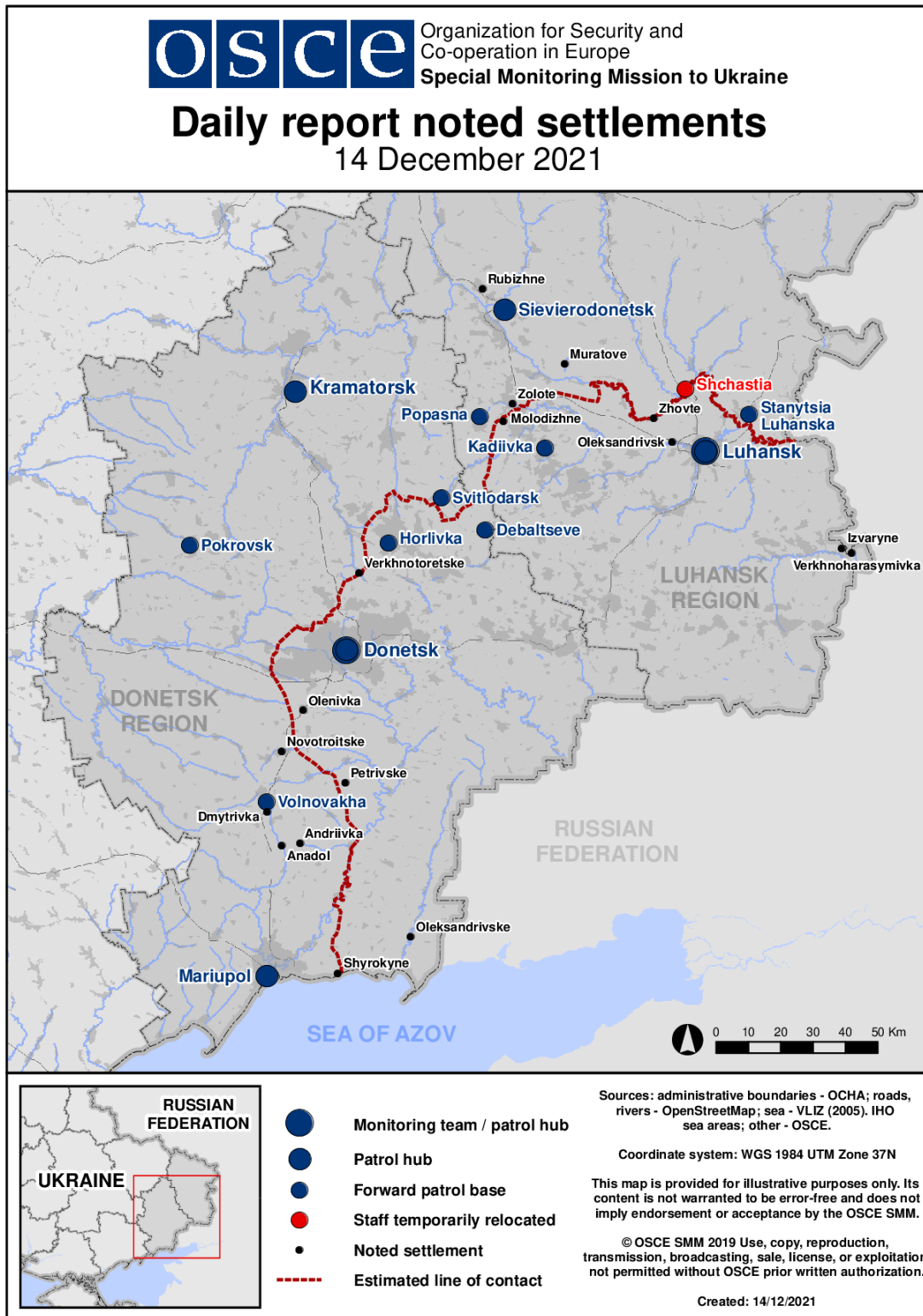
Table of ceasefire violations as of 13 December 2021⁹

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|---|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km Sof Donetsk) | 3-5km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:24 |
| SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre) | 1-3km W | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | N to S | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:35 |
| SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km Sof Donetsk) | 4-6km NNE | Recorded | 8 | Projectile | E to W | N/K | 13-Dec, 00:16 |
| | 4-6km N | Recorded | 1 | Illumination flare | In vertical flight | N/K | 13-Dec, 00:47 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Muzzle flash | | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:40 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | ESE to WNW (subsequent to previous event) | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:40 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 5 | Projectile | ESE to WNW | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:49 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:51 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 12 | Projectile | ESE to WNW | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:54 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 17:56 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 9 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:11 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 3 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:13 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 8 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:24 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 24 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:25 |
| | 3-5km N | Recorded | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:25 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:27 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 2 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:28 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:30 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:46 |
| | 2-4km N | Recorded | 4 | Projectile | W to E | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:46 |
| 2-4km N | Recorded | 2 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 18:53 | |
| About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk) | 5-6km SE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 11:03 |
| | 2-4km SE | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 11:28 |
| About 6km N of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk) | 2-3km SW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 13:28 |
| | 2-3km SW | Heard | 1 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 13:32 |
| About 1km ESE of Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh, non-government-controlled, 90km SE of Donetsk) | 1-2km ESE | Heard | 10 | Shot | | Tank (type N/K) | 13-Dec, 11:34 |
| | 1-2km ESE | Heard | 2 | Burst | | Small arms | 13-Dec, 11:34 |
| | 1-2km ESE | Heard | 1 | Shot | | Tank (type N/K) | 13-Dec, 11:48 |
| | 1-2km ESE | Heard | 7 | Shot | | Tank (type N/K) | 13-Dec, 12:10 |
| Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liukseburh, non-government-controlled, 90km SE of Donetsk) | 3-4km ESE | Heard | 8 | Shot | | Tank (type N/K) | 13-Dec, 12:37 |
| | 3-4km ESE | Heard | 2 | Burst | | Small arms | 13-Dec, 12:37 |

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.

| SMM position | Event location | Means | No. | Observation | Description | Weapon | Date, time |
|---|----------------|----------|-----|-------------|---|------------|---------------------|
| NE part of Katerynivka (government-controlled, 64km W of Luhansk) | 4km SW | Heard | 8 | Explosion | Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote but within 5km of its periphery) | AGL | 8-Dec, 11:00 |
| SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk) | 3-5km ESE | Recorded | 1 | Projectile | S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote) | N/K | 13-Dec, 16:35 |
| N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk) | 4-7km SE | Heard | 4 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 12-Dec, 23:28-23:50 |
| | 4-7km SE | Heard | 5 | Burst | Undetermined | HMG | 12-Dec, 23:28-23:50 |
| | 5-7km SE | Heard | 11 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 07:03-07:11 |
| | 4-6km SE | Heard | 3 | Explosion | Undetermined | N/K | 13-Dec, 15:15-15:23 |
| | 4-6km SE | Heard | 28 | Burst | Undetermined | HMG | 13-Dec, 15:15-15:23 |
| | 4-6km SE | Heard | 29 | Shot | Undetermined | Small arms | 13-Dec, 15:15-15:23 |
| | 4-6km SE | Heard | 3 | Shot | Undetermined | Small arms | 13-Dec, 16:05-16:09 |
| | 4-6km SE | Heard | 28 | Burst | Undetermined | HMG | 13-Dec, 16:05-16:09 |
| Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km NW of Luhansk) | 1.5km N | Heard | 3 | Burst | Undetermined | Small arms | 13-Dec, 10:45 |
| | 1.5km N | Heard | 3 | Shot | Undetermined | Small arms | 13-Dec, 10:45 |

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).