

Daily Report 296/2021

17 December 2021¹

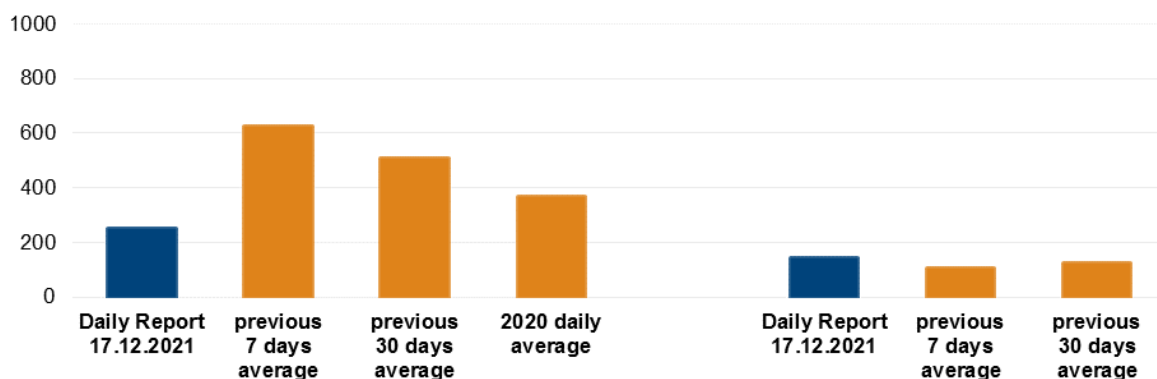
Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 62 ceasefire violations, including 22 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 257 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 170 ceasefire violations, including 120 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 81 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points and monitored areas near the border outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted. Its unmanned aerial vehicles encountered multiple 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, 16 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, weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some SMM cameras.

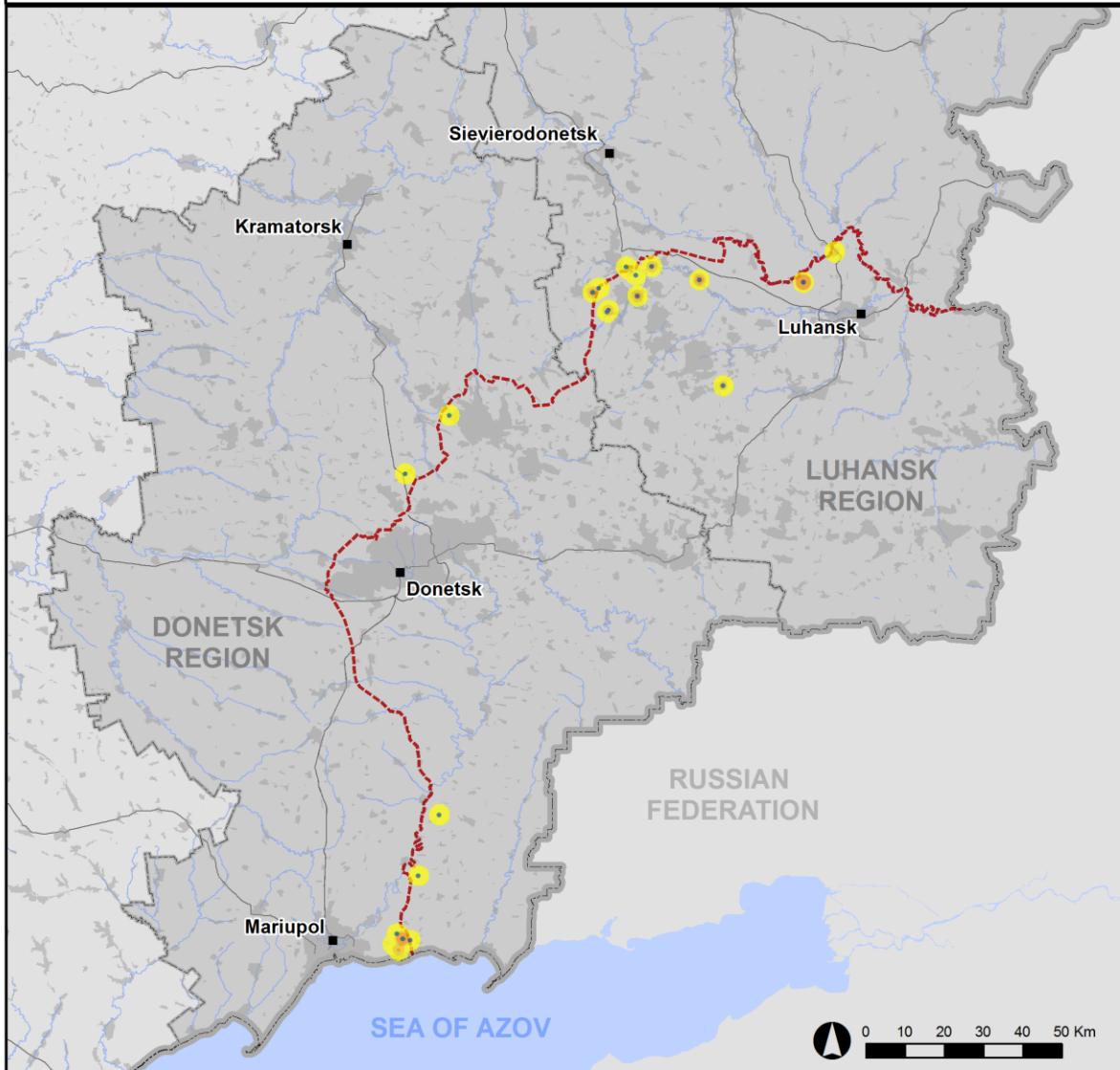
³ Including explosions.

⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

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

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 16 December 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
-
- Low
- 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: 17/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 62 ceasefire violations, including 22 explosions (two airbursts and 20 undetermined). Most ceasefire violations occurred in areas north and north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and north-east and south-east of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 257 ceasefire violations in the region, most of which also occurred in areas near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 170 ceasefire violations, including 120 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas west-south-west of Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Luhansk), near the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below) and west of Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km north-west of Luhansk). The Mission also recorded ten ceasefire violations in a training area near Buhaiivka (non-government-controlled, 37km south-west of Luhansk), assessed as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 81 ceasefire violations in the region, about half of which were also assessed as live-fire training exercise.

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 95,486 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 25,751 explosions, 23,126 projectiles in flight, 416 muzzle flashes, 406 illumination flares and at least 45,787 bursts and shots).

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 day, SMM patrols heard four undetermined explosions and 26 bursts and shots of small-arms and 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 Mission 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.

While positioned at four locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the SMM 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.

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 SMM saw two howitzers at a compound near a residential area of Shevchenko (59km south of Donetsk) in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region, and seven howitzers at a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk) in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, the Mission observed 16 howitzers, eight anti-tank guns and one anti-tank guided missile system, all but one at a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk). In non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk region, the SMM observed 65 tanks and one howitzer, at two training areas near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk) and Ternove. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The Mission also observed an armoured combat vehicle, an anti-aircraft gun and a signals and command vehicle in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

While in Obozne (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk), the Mission saw a non-SMM unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flying in a circle at about 200m north of its position. The operation of any aerial vehicles is banned by the 22 July 2020 agreement on Measures to strengthen the ceasefire.

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

The SMM also facilitated and monitored the maintenance and assessment of phenol sludge reservoirs near Nelipivka (government-controlled, 40km north of Donetsk). While positioned on the western outskirts of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard two undetermined explosions.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open but did not see any traffic passing through. It also observed that a corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

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

The Mission 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.

Between the area of the former EECP and the intersection between road T-1316 and the road leading east towards Zolote-4/Rodina (government-controlled, 62km west of Luhansk), the

SMM observed 13 workers (men, between their thirties and forties) with one crane, one excavator and one roller conducting construction works, assessed as for the installation of four new containers.

Areas near the border outside government control⁶

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about 90 minutes, the SMM observed 24 cars (including 16 with “DPR” plates), 42 covered cargo trucks and one truck loaded with timber (including 20 with “DPR” plates), one bus and three mini-buses (all with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 56 people (21 women and 35 men of mixed ages) entering Ukraine. At the same time, it saw 54 cars (including 35 with “DPR” plates), 16 covered cargo trucks (including 11 with “DPR” plates), three buses and six mini-buses (including seven with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages), and 22 people (ten women and 12 men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk) for about 30 minutes, the Mission saw one woman (in her thirties) exiting Ukraine.

The SMM also monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Kosharne (61km south-east of Donetsk), Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk) and Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk) and observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, 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 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 16 December 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.

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’

⁶ 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.

movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:⁷

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during 11 flights: three times while flying over areas near Bila Hora (government-controlled, 67km north-west of Luhansk), twice over areas near Vyskryva (government-controlled, 76km west of Luhansk), and once each over areas near government-controlled Muratove (51km north-west of Luhansk) and non-government-controlled Pankivka (16km north of Luhansk), Stukalova Balka (9km north of Luhansk), Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk), Novohryhorivka (33km west of Luhansk) and Luhansk city.
- Also, an SMM mini-UAV flight was cancelled close to Stukalova Balka due to GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.

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 in violation of the withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/12/2021	2	Towed howitzer (D-30A <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)	At a compound near a residential area of Shevchenko (59km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/12/2021	4	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm) (two probable)	At a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk), where the SMM also spotted 16 armoured combat vehicles, of which eight probable. ⁸	Mini-UAV
	3	Towed howitzer (D-30A <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				
15/12/2021	1	Anti-tank guided missile system (9P148 <i>Konkurs</i> , 135mm)	At a compound near a residential area of Shevchenko (59km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
16/12/2021	10	Towed howitzer (D-20, 152mm)	At a railway station in Zachativka (74km south-west of Donetsk)	Patrol
	6	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)		
	8	Anti-tank gun (MT-12 <i>Rapira</i> , 100mm)		
Non-government-controlled areas				
15/12/2021	17	Tank (15 T-72 and two T-64)	At a training area near Pokrovka (36km east of Donetsk), where the SMM also spotted 13 armoured combat vehicles. ⁹	Mini-UAV
	1	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1, <i>Gvozdika</i>)		
	48	Tank (34 T-72, 13 T-64 and one probable T-64)	At a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone¹⁰

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
15/12/2021	1	Signals and command vehicle (R-142)	Near Pionerske (101km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
	1	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)		
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)		

⁸ The armoured combat vehicles mentioned here are not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

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

¹⁰ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

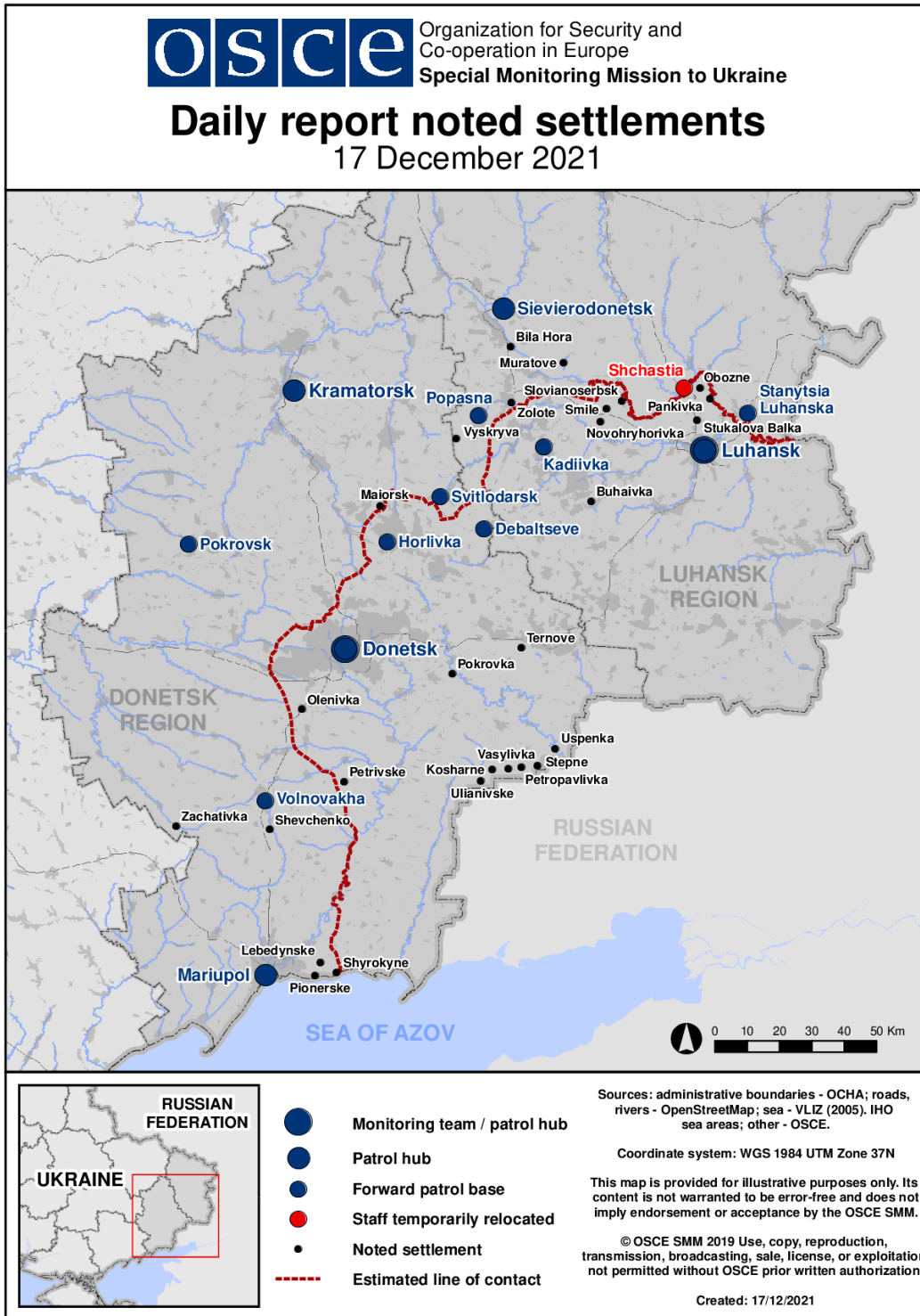
Table of ceasefire violations as of 16 December 2021¹¹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Hranitne (government-controlled, 60km S of Donetsk)	5-7km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:14
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 19:46
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Dec, 20:29
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	15-Dec, 20:36
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 20:43
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 21:20
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Dec, 21:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Dec, 21:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	15-Dec, 21:21
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	15-Dec, 21:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Dec, 21:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	15-Dec, 21:32
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	15-Dec, 22:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	15-Dec, 22:24
	4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	E to W	N/K	15-Dec, 23:24
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	15-Dec, 23:24	
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	4-6km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	15-Dec, 19:32
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	8-10km NNW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:20-09:27
About 2.5km SE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	1-2km E	Heard	14	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 10:47-10:57
	1-2km N	Heard	2	Shot		Small arms	16-Dec, 10:47-10:57
About 500m NE of Lebedynske (government-controlled, 99km S of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 12:41-12:51
	2-3km NE	Heard	4	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 12:41-12:51
About 7.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:32
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km SE	Heard	6	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	16-Dec, 07:08-07:12
	4-6km SE	Heard	10	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	16-Dec, 07:08-07:12
	4-6km SE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	16-Dec, 07:08-07:12
Slovianoserbsk (non-government-controlled, 28km NW of Luhansk)	10-12km W	Heard	20	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 10:02-10:20

¹¹ 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.

W edge of Pankivka (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	15km WSW	Heard	70	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 09:42-10:10
Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km W of Luhansk)	5-7km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	16-Dec, 09:11
	5-7km W	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	16-Dec, 09:11
N edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk)	3-4km NNE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	16-Dec, 09:53
	5-7km WSW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	16-Dec, 13:14
	8-10km SSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 13:41
Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	1.5-2km NNE	Heard	10	Burst		Small arms	16-Dec, 11:22-11:27
Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	10-15km SW	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 10:45-11:00
	3-5km WNW	Heard	6	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	16-Dec, 10:52
Buhaivka (non-government-controlled, 37km SW of Luhansk)	1km SW	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 12:12-12:20
Sentianivka (formerly Frunze, non-government-controlled, 44km W of Luhansk)	6-7km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 11:58-12:19
	6-7km W	Heard	14	Burst		HMG	16-Dec, 11:58-12:19

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹²



¹² 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).