



Daily Report 298/2021

20 December 2021¹

Summary

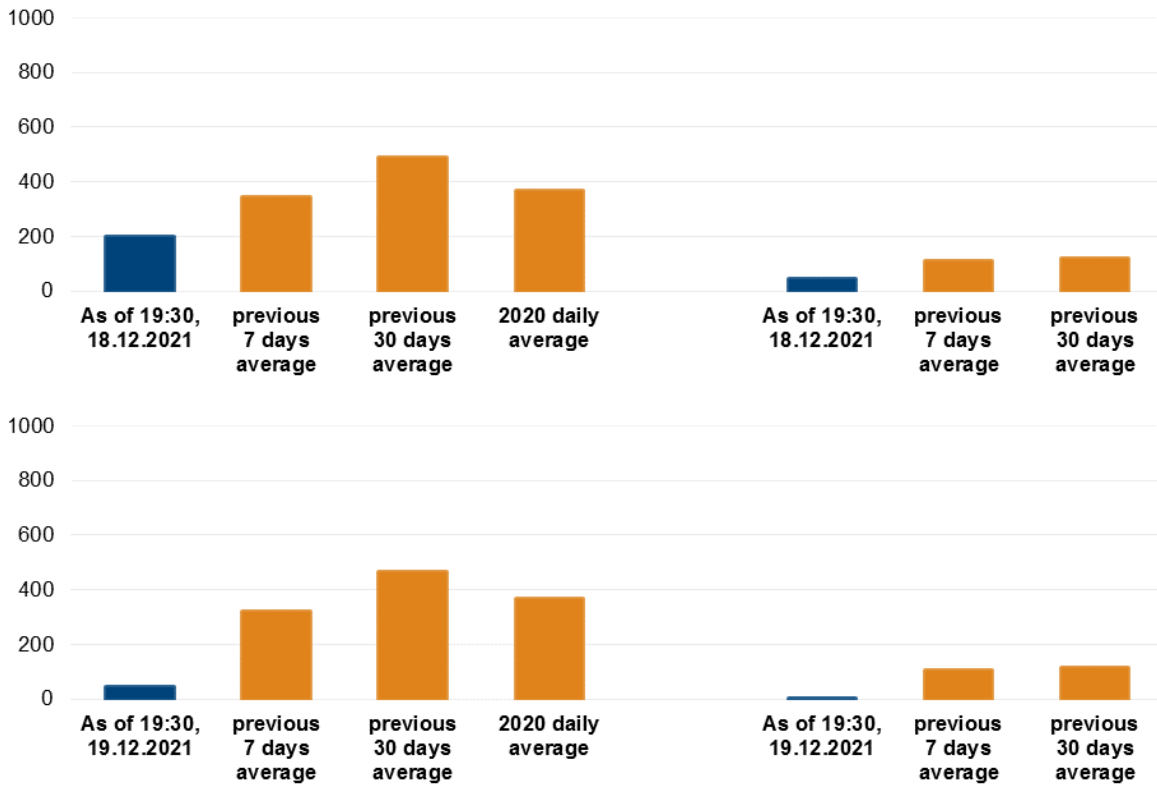
- In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 17 and 19 December, the SMM recorded 219 ceasefire violations, including 42 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 101 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 17 and 19 December, the Mission recorded 24 ceasefire violations, including seven explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 169 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM followed up on reports of recent damage to a civilian property in Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region.
- Members of the armed formations twice denied the Mission passage near Zolote and Molodizhne, Luhansk region.*
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It recorded an undetermined explosion inside the disengagement area near Zolote.
- The Mission facilitated the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM 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 Mission visited a border crossing point and monitored areas near the border outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a heavy weapons holding area, and at three checkpoints of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region.*

¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 19 December 2021. 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, weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

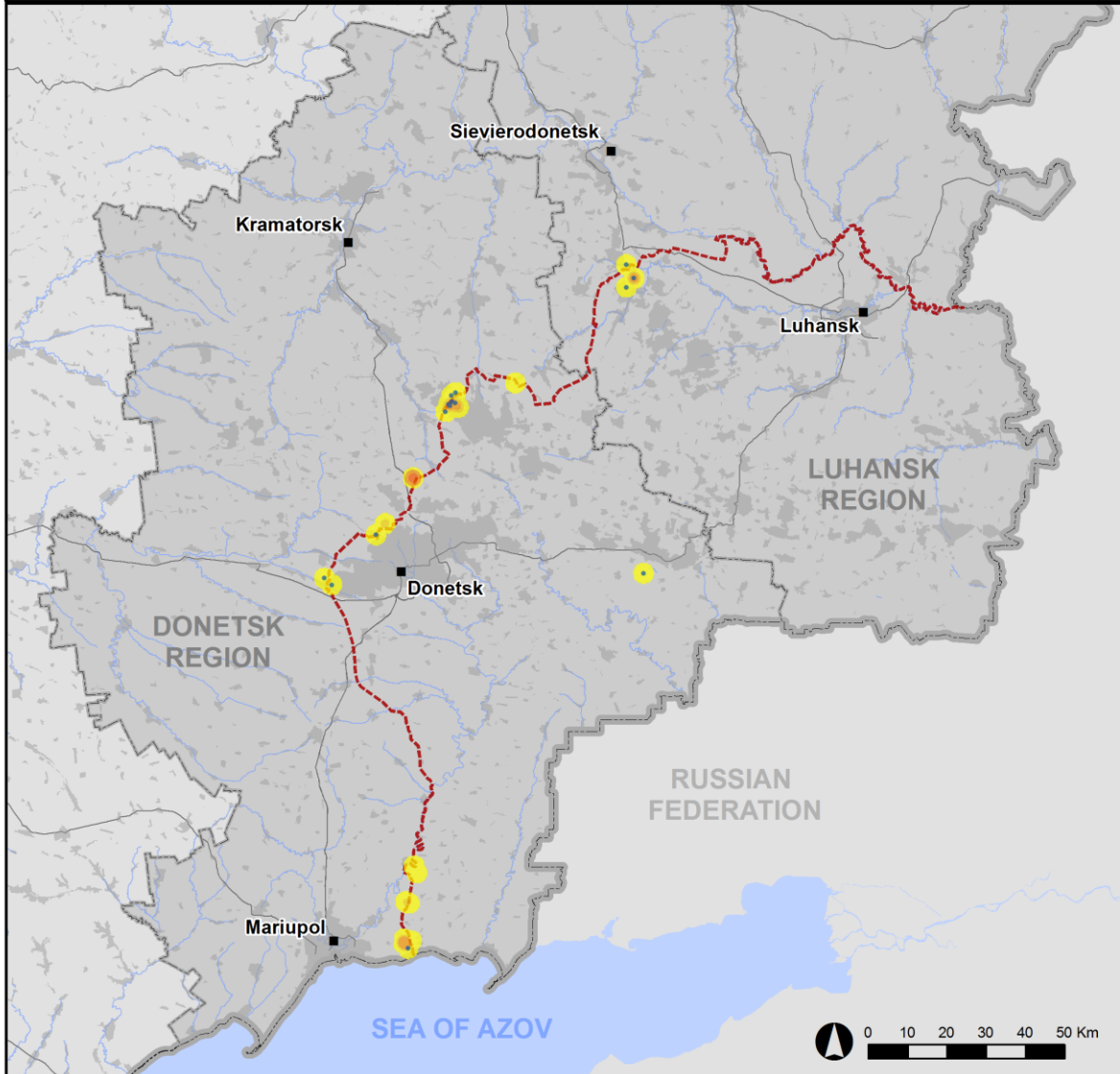
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

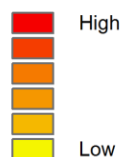


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 18-19 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: 20/12/2021

In Donetsk region, between the evenings of 17 and 19 December, the SMM recorded 219 ceasefire violations, including 42 explosions (two airbursts and 40 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), north and north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and west-north-west of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk). Also, the Mission assessed three ceasefire violations recorded in an area south-east of Ternove (non-government-controlled, 57km east of Donetsk) as a live-fire training exercise outside the security zone. In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 101 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which were also assessed as live-fire training exercises.

In Luhansk region, between the evenings of 17 and 19 December, the SMM recorded 24 ceasefire violations, including seven undetermined explosions. All but two ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-west of Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 169 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred near Berezivske.

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 95,999 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,010 explosions, 23,170 projectiles in flight, 416 muzzle flashes, 409 illumination flares and at least 45,994 bursts and shots).

Damage to a civilian property in Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region

On 17 December, the SMM followed up on reports of damage to a civilian property reported on 3 December in the south-western part of Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk).

At 29 Krynychna Street, at an inhabited, single-storey house, the SMM saw that a north-facing, internal bedroom wall was cracked, had damaged plaster and observed a hole in the same wall. In the roof of a garage adjacent to the house's south-facing side the SMM observed a hole as well as broken asbestos panels. The SMM assessed the damage as recent and caused by an undetermined weapon fired from a southerly direction.

Armed formations twice denied the SMM's passage near Zolote and Molodizhne, Luhansk region

On 19 December, the armed formations in Luhansk region twice denied the Mission passage to government-controlled areas. The SMM patrols were travelling from non-government-controlled areas.

The first denial occurred at 09:10 at the checkpoint of the armed formations near the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). The second occurred at 11:07 at a checkpoint of the armed formations on road T-0504 about 1.5km south-west of Molodizhne. Members of the armed formations cited "the SMM's safety" on the first occasion and "orders from their superiors" on the second.

In both instances, the SMM had preannounced its passage as a temporary, COVID-19 related courtesy. (See [SMM Spot Report 44/2021](#).)

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 18 and 19 December, inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**, the Mission saw 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).

On 18 December, outside the disengagement area, at a position of the armed formations about 130m south-southeast of the area’s south-eastern edge, just north of the Prince Ihor Monument, the SMM again observed five members of the armed formations digging the ground with shovels. (For previous observations in the area, see the [SMM Daily Report of 25 November 2021](#)).

On the same day, the SMM camera in Zolote recorded one undetermined explosion, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

Also on the same day, while positioned on the south-western outskirts of Berezhivske (non-government-controlled, 53km north-west of Luhansk), the Mission heard 22 ceasefire violations, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

On 19 December, an SMM camera in the southern part of the disengagement area recorded one undetermined explosion, assessed as inside the area.

On 18 and 19 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the Mission saw members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). On both days, 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.

On 17 December, about 200m east of the eastern edge of the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) saw ten anti-tank mines, assessed as belonging to the armed formations. (For previous observations in the area see [SMM Daily Report of 27 May 2021](#).)

On 18 and 19 December, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, the Mission observed a calm situation.

Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn⁶

At one permanent storage site in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region

18 December

The SMM noted that all weapons previously observed at the site were present; the last visit to this site was on 26 November 2021.

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.

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 saw 24 tanks in a training area near Ternove (non-government-controlled, 57km east of Donetsk).

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

The Mission saw two armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and one infantry fighting vehicle in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

Anti-tank mine near Olenivka and hazard signs near Zernove, Donetsk region

On 17 December, about 600m south of the south-western edge of Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted one anti-tank mine, (not previously reported) in a field about 50m west of road H-20, assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 19 December, about 1.5km north-north-west of Zernove (non-government-controlled, 33km south of Donetsk), in a field about 50m west of road C-051510, the Mission saw about 20 recently erected hazard signs (red rectangles, with images of skulls and crossbones and the words “Attention! Sniper!” written in Russian, not previously reported).

SMM facilitation of the operation and maintenance of critical civilian infrastructure

On 18 and 19 December, the Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

On 19 December, 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 observe any traffic passing through; and observed that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed.

On 18 and 19 December, 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 queueing to travel in both directions.

On both days, 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.

Areas near the border outside government control⁷

On 18 December, while at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about three hours, the SMM observed 18 cars (including 12 with “DPR” plates), three covered cargo trucks (including two with “DPR” plates), three buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 86 people (38 women and 47 men of mixed ages, and one child) entering Ukraine. At the same time, it saw 35 cars (including 19 with “DPR” plates), 83 covered cargo trucks (including 49 with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) and 38 people (19 women and 18 men of mixed ages, and one child) exiting Ukraine.

On 18 December, the SMM also monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Vasylivka (65km south-east of Donetsk), Petropavlivka (68km south-east of Donetsk), Stepne (72km south-east of Donetsk), and Mokroiellanchyk (62km 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.

Denial:

- On 18 December, at a heavy weapons holding area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region, a member of the armed formations denied the SMM entry into the area, citing a “lack of permission and the absence of weapons inside the site”.
- On the same day, at a checkpoint near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage west into the settlement, citing “a lack of security guarantees”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through.
- Also on the same day, at a checkpoint near Hrechchyne (non-government-controlled, 48km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage south into Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk), citing “ongoing

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.

demining activities”. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed civilian traffic passing through.

- On 19 December, while on a local road south-east of Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km north of Donetsk), to monitor the security situation near the pumping station near Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the Mission saw that a barrier was lowered, preventing its passage. Additionally, a member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage, citing “the Mission’s safety”, and telling the SMM that future travel will require an escort by members of the armed formations. As a result, the Mission was not able to monitor the security situation near the pumping station.

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:

- On 18 December, at another checkpoint near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), four visibly armed members of the armed formations allowed the Mission passage towards Staromarivka (62km south of Donetsk) only after 20 minutes of waiting, citing “the need to wait for permission from their superiors”.

Other impediments:⁸

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during three flights: once each while flying over areas near Semyhiria (government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), Holmivskyi (non-government-controlled, 49km north-east of Donetsk), and Klynove (government-controlled, 68km north-east of Donetsk).

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’ positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
18/12/2021	24	Tank (16 T-72 and eight types undetermined)	In a training area near Ternove (57km east of Donetsk)	Patrol

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁹

Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
19/12/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol
	1	Armoured reconnaissance vehicle (BRDM-2)	Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	
Non-government-controlled areas				
17/12/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Petrivske (41km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV

⁹ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

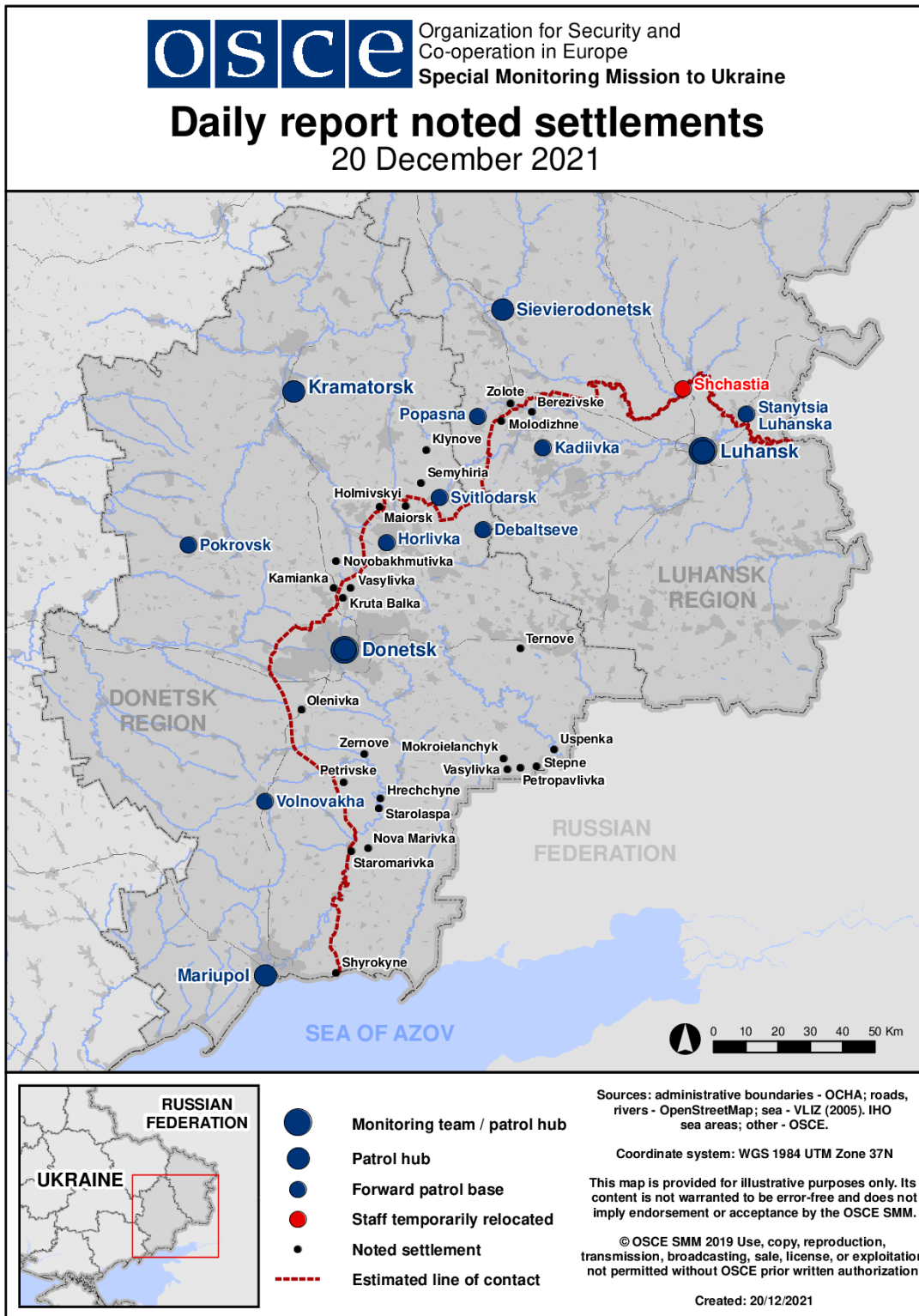
Table of ceasefire violations as of 19 December 2021¹⁰

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Dec, 17:31
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	18-Dec, 17:31
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Dec, 17:32
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	18-Dec, 17:32
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Dec, 17:40
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	18-Dec, 17:40
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	18-Dec, 03:01
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Muzzle flash		N/K	18-Dec, 18:28
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Projectile	E to W (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	18-Dec, 18:28
	2-4km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	18-Dec, 18:28
About 500m NE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	2-3km NE	Heard	30	Shot		Small arms	18-Dec, 10:00-10:09
	2-3km NE	Heard	72	Shot		Small arms	18-Dec, 10:16-10:17
E edge of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	1-2km SE	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	18-Dec, 10:23
About 1km NE of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	3-4km ESE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:19
	3-4km ESE	Heard	2	Burst		HMG	18-Dec, 10:19
	3-4km ENE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:35
	3-4km ENE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	18-Dec, 10:35
	2-3km ESE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 10:43
About 2km WSW of Zalizne (formerly Artemove, government-controlled, 42km NE of Donetsk)	5-6km ENE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:39
About 5km W of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km NW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 11:40-11:43
About 7.5km WNW of Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km NW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 12:42-12:50
	1.5-2km N	Heard	13	Burst		HMG	18-Dec, 12:49
	2-4km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 12:55-12:59
	3-4km NW	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 13:00-13:09
Ternove (non-government-controlled, 57km E of Donetsk)	1.5km SE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 12:15
Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	3-4km NW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	18-Dec, 13:08
Vesele (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk)	2-3km NNW	Heard	10	Burst		Small arms	18-Dec, 13:15
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	18-Dec, 16:58
Berezivske (non-government-controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	2-4km WSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	18-Dec, 10:24-10:35

¹⁰ 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.

	2-4km WSW	Heard	8	Shot	(assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	Small arms	18-Dec, 10:24-10:35
	2-4km WSW	Heard	9	Burst	(assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	HMG	18-Dec, 10:24-10:35
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SW to NE	N/K	18-Dec, 20:41
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	NNE to SSW	N/K	18-Dec, 22:17
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 17:53
SMM camera at Oktiabr mine (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	1-3km WNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Dec, 18:59
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	18-Dec, 22:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	18-Dec, 22:42
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	E to W	N/K	19-Dec, 00:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	19-Dec, 17:45
	3-5km N	Recorded	16	Projectile	W to E	N/K	19-Dec, 17:46
	3-5km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	19-Dec, 17:47
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	19-Dec, 18:46
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	19-Dec, 18:57
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km WSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	ESE to WNW	N/K	18-Dec, 21:15
SMM camera in the southern part of the disengagement area near Zolote (60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km SSE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as inside the disengagement area)	N/K	19-Dec, 15:57

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹¹



¹¹ 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).