

# Daily Report 300/2021

22 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

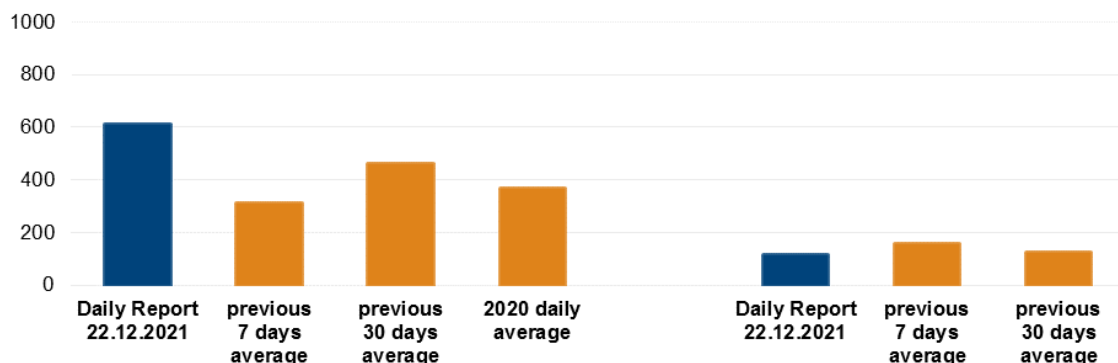
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 564 ceasefire violations, including 74 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 354 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 42 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 229 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage near Zolote and delayed its passage near Stanytsia Luhanska, 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 two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM visited a border crossing point and a railway station outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The Mission monitored the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in southern Donetsk region and at a border crossing point and a railway station outside government control in Luhansk region. Its UAVs encountered instances of GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming.\*

## Ceasefire violations<sup>2</sup>

### Number of recorded ceasefire violations<sup>3</sup>

### Number of recorded explosions<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 21 December 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

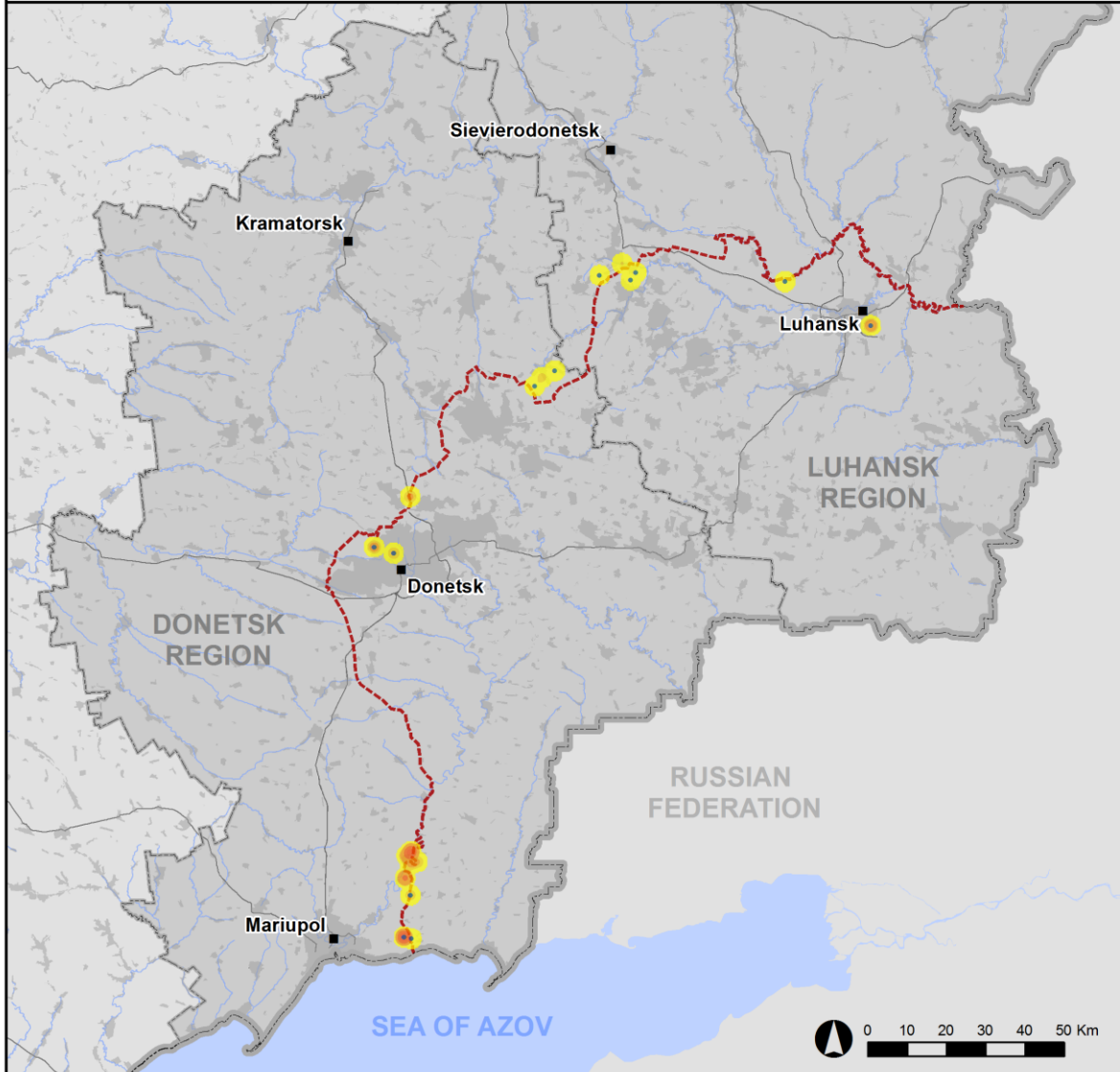
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

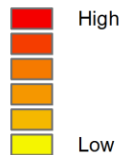


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 21 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: 22/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 564 ceasefire violations, including 74 explosions (two airbursts and 72 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north and north-north-east of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk), north-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) and north-east of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 354 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred in areas near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 49 ceasefire violations, including 42 undetermined explosions. Most of ceasefire violations occurred in an area south-west of Mykolaivka (non-government-controlled, 15km east of Luhansk) and were assessed as live-fire training exercise in violation of the decision of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) of 3 March 2016 that prohibits the conduct of live-fire training in the security zone; as well as in areas north-east, east and south-east of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). (See below.) In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 229 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which were assessed as live-fire exercises outside the security zone

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the TCG 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 97,195 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,560 explosions, 23,372 projectiles in flight, 416 muzzle flashes, 412 illumination flares and at least 46,435 bursts and shots).

### **Armed formations denied the SMM's passage near Zolote and delayed its passage near Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region**

On 21 December, the armed formations in Luhansk region once denied the Mission's passage to non-government-controlled areas and once delayed its passage to government-controlled areas.

The denial occurred at 09:10 at about 350m north of the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote, where a member of the armed formations cited "the SMM's safety". The delay occurred at 10:07 at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge, where a member of the armed formations only allowed the Mission's passage after about 37 minutes of waiting, citing "a need to wait for a decision from superiors".

Additionally, earlier in the morning at 09:06, at a checkpoint near the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote, members of the armed formations denied another SMM patrol passage inside the disengagement area citing "the SMM's safety". The patrol was to assist the SMM patrol crossing to non-government-controlled areas mentioned above.

In all instances, the SMM had preannounced its passage as a temporary, COVID-19 related courtesy. (See [SMM Spot Report 46/2021](#).)

### **Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske<sup>5</sup>**

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

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

During the evening on 20 December, the SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) recorded five undetermined explosions and seven projectiles, assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, but within 5km of its periphery.

On 21 December, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the SMM recorded one undetermined explosion, assessed as outside the disengagement area, but within 5km of its periphery.

While positioned inside the area, the SMM also saw that the previously reported box, assessed as an ammunition box, and camera, both about 1km south of its northern edge, as well as the previously reported four crates and boxes, also assessed as ammunition boxes, and one anti-personnel mine, all between 450m-600m north of the area’s southern edge, continued to be present. (For previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [10 December 2021](#) and [14 December 2021](#).)

On the same day, 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 SMM 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 20 December, on the western edge of Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), about 250m east-south-east of the north-eastern corner of the **disengagement area near Petrivske**, an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a damaged SMM mini-UAV lying on the ground on the edge of a trench. Earlier on the same day, the Mission had lost spatial control of a mini-UAV in the same area, assessed as caused by probable jamming (see [SMM Daily Report of 21 December 2021](#)).

On 21 December, while positioned at three locations near the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the Mission observed a calm situation.

### **Weapons storage site**

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

21 December

The SMM noted that 24 tanks (T-72) were missing, compared with the previous visit on 20 August 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.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites in government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, the Mission observed 14 surface-to-air missile systems. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM saw two armoured combat vehicles on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **Presence of mines near Spartak and mine hazard sign near Novotroitske, Donetsk region**

On 20 December, about 1.8km north of Spartak (non-government-controlled, 9km north of Donetsk) on road T-0505 leading to Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km north of Donetsk), an SMM mini-UAV spotted 14 probable anti-tank mines (not previously reported and not seen in imagery from 29 October 2021), assessed as belonging to the armed formations.

On 21 December, about 5km south-east of Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk), on the north-eastern edge of a local leading south-east towards Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 40km south of Donetsk), the Mission saw a recently erected mine hazard sign (red rectangle, with images of skulls and crossbones and the words “Stop Mines” written in Ukrainian and Russian, not previously reported) attached to a wooden stick.

### **SMM facilitation of the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure**

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk). While positioned on the southern edge of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard 17 bursts of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

### **Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints**

In Donetsk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

In Luhansk region, the Mission 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.

The SMM noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was closed.

### **Areas near the border outside government control<sup>6</sup>**

While at a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, 65km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM did not observe any people or vehicles entering or exiting

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

Ukraine. After about 15 minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area.\*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, the SMM observed about 50 stationary cargo railway cars and eight cistern wagons. After about ten minutes, a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the station. \*

### Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

From 17 to 19 December, the SMM monitored areas in east and south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post near Valok (193km south-east of Kherson) and along the North Crimean Canal. The Mission also visited areas near Ivanivka (109 km south-east of Kherson), as well as areas along the coast of the Sea of Azov near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson), Stokopani (181km east of Kherson), Strilkove (193km south-east of Kherson), Prydorozhnie (177km east of Kherson), Novyi Azov (190km east of Kherson). While monitoring these areas, the SMM observed no change in the security situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in 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 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.*

#### Denials:

- At a checkpoint west of Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage west towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), citing “orders from superiors”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, citing “orders from his superiors”. (See above.)
- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station near Voznesenivka, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, citing “orders from his superiors” and adding that “the Mission can only be present at the contact line, not in areas near the border”. (See above.)



*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 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 the EECP near Maiorsk (45km north-east of Donetsk) only after about 20 minutes of waiting, citing a "need to inform his superior about the SMM crossing".

Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during five flights: once each over areas near government-controlled Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk), Mykolaivka (40km south of Donetsk), Novotroitske (36km south-west of Donetsk) and Mykolaivka (77km west of Luhansk), as well as near non-government-controlled Mykolaivka (15km east of Luhansk).

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<sup>7</sup> 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.

## Tables of weapons

### Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
21/12/2021	14	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i> )	Near Novookhtyrka (55km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol

### **Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone<sup>8</sup>**

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Government-controlled areas</b>				
20/12/2021	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)	Near Pavlopil (84km south of Donetsk)	Mini-UAV
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
20/12/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-80)	In a compound in Katerynivka (formerly Yuvileine, 8km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

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



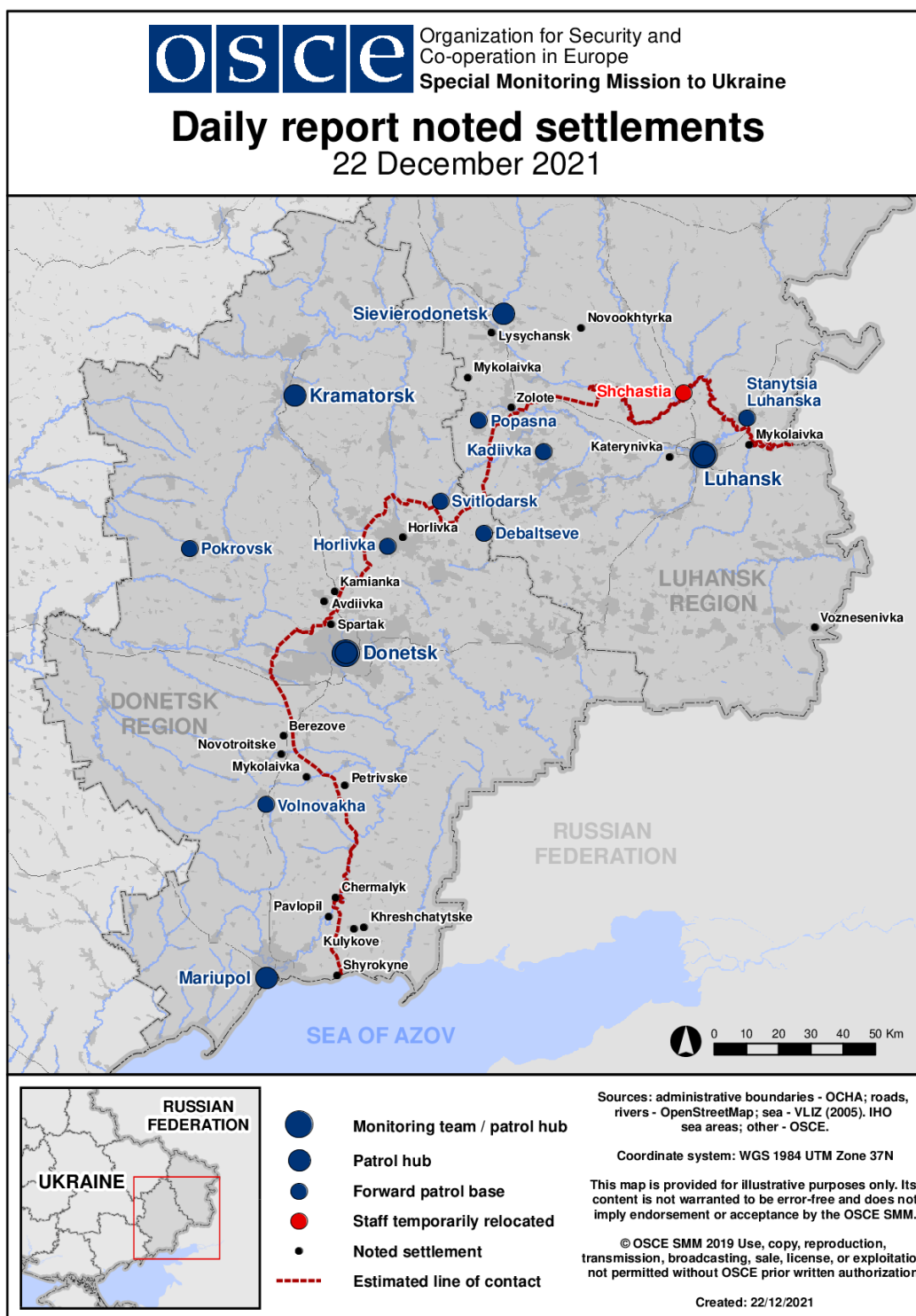
**Table of ceasefire violations as of 21 December 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	21-Dec, 17:59
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	21-Dec, 17:59
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	21-Dec, 17:59
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 18:17
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 18:18
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 18:20
	3-5km E	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 19:19
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 19:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 21:46
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 21:55
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	9	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:04
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:05
	4-6km N	Recorded	36	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:06
	4-6km N	Recorded	4	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:07
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Airburst	N/K	20-Dec, 22:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:08
	4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	20-Dec, 22:09
	4-6km N	Recorded	18	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	20-Dec, 22:10
	4-6km N	Recorded	20	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	20-Dec, 22:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:11
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	20-Dec, 22:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:12
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 22:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	WSW to ENE	N/K	20-Dec, 22:13
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	20-Dec, 22:14
	4-6km N	Recorded	16	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:15
	4-6km N	Recorded	8	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:18
	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	20-Dec, 22:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	5	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 22:24
	4-6km N	Recorded	12	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 23:00
	4-6km N	Recorded	7	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 23:01
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 23:02
	4-6km N	Recorded	3	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 23:03
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	20-Dec, 23:03
4-6km N	Recorded	8	Projectile	W to E	N/K	20-Dec, 23:05	
4-6km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	20-Dec, 23:28	
4-6km N	Recorded	6	Projectile	W to E	N/K	21-Dec, 16:55	
4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	E to W	N/K	21-Dec, 17:17	

<sup>9</sup> 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.

Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SE	Heard	10	Burst		HMG	20-Dec, 19:01-19:02
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSE	Heard	17	Burst		Small arms	21-Dec, 09:01
About 1.5km S of Vozdvyzhenka (government-controlled, 66km NE of Donetsk)	4-6km S	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 10:02-10:05
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km S	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 10:05
Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km NE	Heard	130	Shots and bursts		HMG	21-Dec, 10:45-11:12
	1-2km NE	Heard	50	Shots and bursts		HMG	21-Dec, 11:23-11:30
Tavrycheske (non-government-controlled 76km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SSW	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	21-Dec, 10:38
	2-3km SSW	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	21-Dec, 10:38
Naberezhne (non-government-controlled 77km S of Donetsk)	2-3km SW	Heard	15	Shot		Small arms	21-Dec, 11:25
NE edge of Pavlopil (government-controlled, 84km S of Donetsk)	1-2km ENE	Heard	30	Shot		Small arms	21-Dec, 11:46
	1-2km ENE	Heard	40	Burst		Small arms	21-Dec, 11:53
About 1km N of the railway station in Donetsk city (6km NW of Donetsk city centre)	4-5km S	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 09:39
	4-5km S	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 09:42
	4-5km S	Heard	10	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 09:46-09:58
Zhabunki (non-government-controlled, 9km NW of Donetsk city centre)	3-5km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:00
	3-5km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:01
	3-5km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:03
	3-5km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 12:04
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	1-3km E	Recorded	7	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	20-Dec, 22:21
	5-7km SE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	20-Dec, 18:25
	5-7km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	20-Dec, 18:28
	5-7km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	20-Dec, 18:29
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	21-Dec, 08:40
Mykolaivka (non-government controlled, 15km east of Luhansk)	10-13km SW	Heard	34	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Dec, 10:36-10:53
S edge of Peredilske (government-controlled, 24km north-west of Luhansk)	10-15km SSW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	Artillery (type N/K)	21-Dec, 12:24

## Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> 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).