

# Daily Report 302/2021

24 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

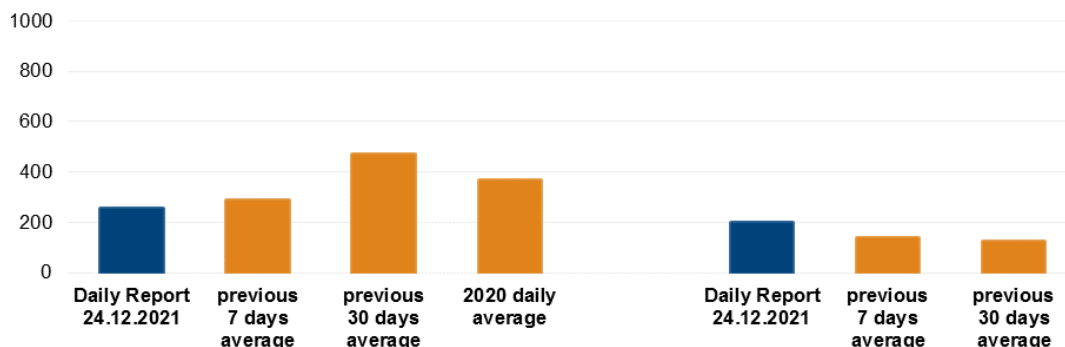
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 173 ceasefire violations, including 156 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 84 ceasefire violations, including 45 explosions. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Members of the armed formations denied and delayed the SMM passage's near Zolote, Molodizhne and Stanytsia Luhanska, Luhansk region.\*
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- 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 five corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission visited two border crossing points outside government control in Luhansk region.
- The SMM observed convoys of trucks with Russian Federation licence plates in non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at four checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk 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, 23 December 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

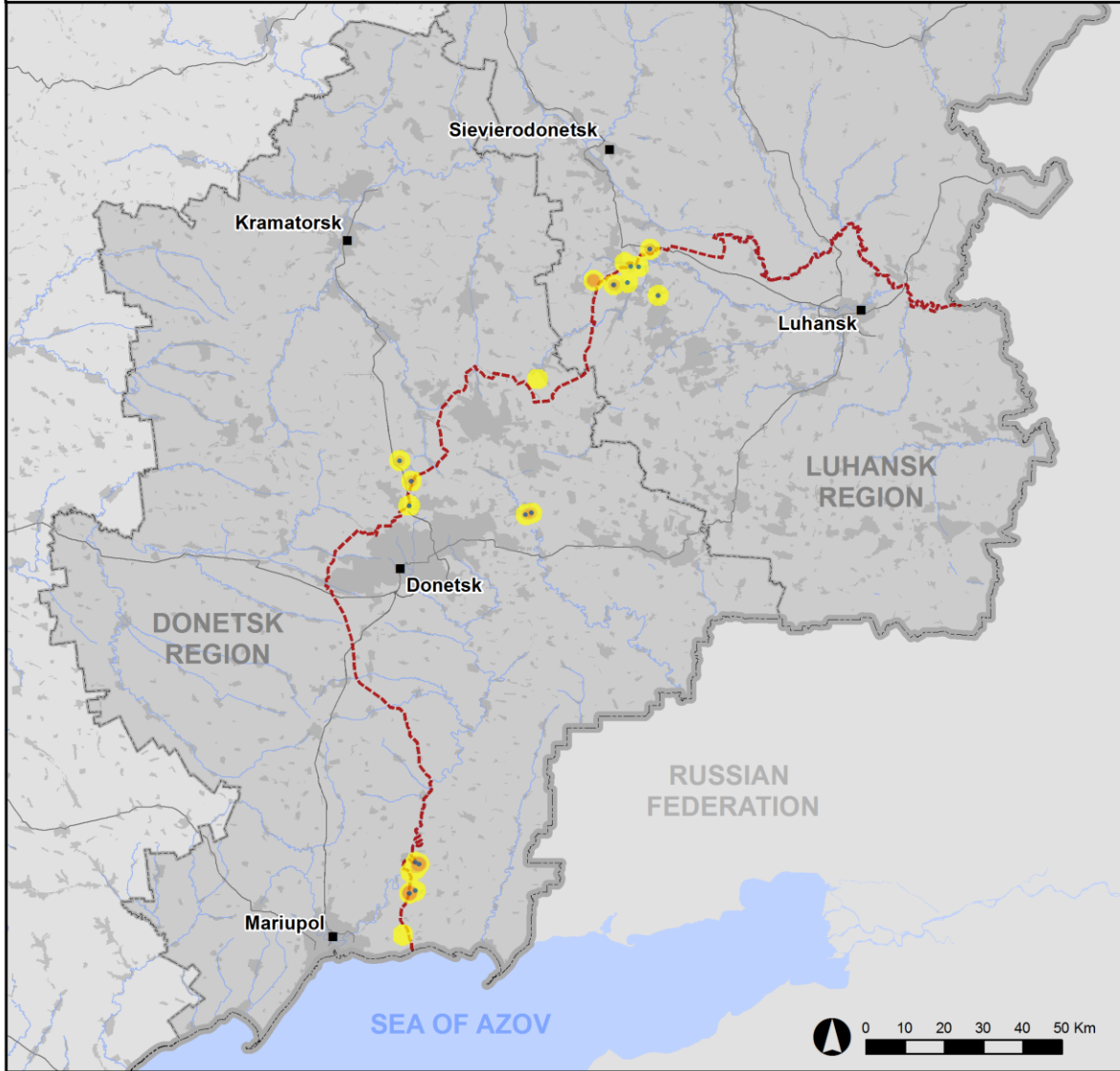
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

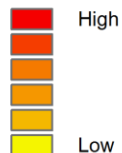


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Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 23 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: 23/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 173 ceasefire violations, including 156 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas east and east-south-east of Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km south of Donetsk) and Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk). The Mission also assessed 25 undetermined explosions in areas west of Vilkhivka (non-government-controlled, 40km east of Donetsk) and south-east of Nyzhnia Krynka (non-government-controlled, 31km north-east of Donetsk) 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. In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 50 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 84 ceasefire violations, including 45 explosions (13 impacts, 22 outgoing, and ten undetermined). All ceasefire violations occurred in areas south-west, north-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 no ceasefire violations in the region.

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 97,502 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,764 explosions, 23,448 projectiles in flight, 418 muzzle flashes, 412 illumination flares and at least 46,460 bursts and shots).

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

On the morning of 23 December, the armed formations in Luhansk region twice denied and once delayed the Mission's passage to government-controlled areas. The SMM patrols were travelling from non-government-controlled areas.

The first denial occurred at 09:04 at the checkpoint of the armed formations near the southern edge of the disengagement area near Zolote. The second occurred at 10:50 at a checkpoint of the armed formations on road T-0504 about 1.5km south-west of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk). Members of the armed formations cited "the SMM's safety" on the first occasion and "orders from their superiors" on the second.

At 09:47, the passage of another SMM patrol travelling through the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk) was delayed for about 35 minutes. Members of the armed formations cited a "lack of prior notification".

In all instances, the SMM had preannounced its passage as a temporary, COVID-19 related courtesy. (See SMM [Spot Report 47/2021](#).)

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

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing

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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.

armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

On the evenings of 22 December and during the night of 23 December, SMM cameras in Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk) and Zolote recorded 36 projectiles in flight and three bursts of unknown weapons. During the day on 23 December, while positioned at two locations near the disengagement area near Zolote, the Mission heard 20 explosions (12 outgoing and eight impacts). All these ceasefire violations were assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

During the day on 23 December, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, 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.

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

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the SMM saw four tanks (types undetermined) in a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, non-government-controlled, 90km south-east of Donetsk). (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The Mission saw two armoured combat vehicles in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

### **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 at two locations near the station, the SMM heard three undetermined explosions and a burst of heavy-machine-gun fire, all 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 Maiorsk (government-controlled, 45km north-east of Donetsk) was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk) was closed. It also noted that a corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km 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 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.

At a checkpoint between non-government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions near Debaltseve (non-government-controlled, 58km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed vehicular traffic in both directions.

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

While at a border crossing point near Izvaryne (52km south-east of Luhansk) for about 30 minutes, the SMM observed one covered cargo truck and one bus (carrying about 20 passengers, mixed gender and ages) entering Ukraine. At the same time, the Mission observed 14 pedestrians (mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a pedestrian border crossing point near Verkhnoharasymivka (57km south-east of Luhansk) for about 20 minutes, the SMM observed no traffic in either direction.

#### **Convoys of trucks with Russian Federation licence plates in Donetsk and Luhansk regions**

On the southern edge of Makiivka (non-government-controlled, 12km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM observed a convoy of seven trucks with Russian Federation license plates bearing the inscription “Humanitarian Aid” in Russian driving west, escorted by three cars and one ambulance (all with “DPR” plates). Later the Mission observed the same convoy enter a storage area south-east of non-government-controlled Donetsk city, where it also observed seven people (gender and ages unknown) unloading cardboard boxes from the trucks.

On the southern outskirts of non-government-controlled Luhansk city, the SMM observed a convoy of three trucks with Russian Federation licence plates bearing the inscription “Humanitarian Aid from the Russian Federation” in Russian, escorted by two cars and an ambulance (all with “LPR” plates).

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

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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.

## **\*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 22 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:

- While driving 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 SMM again saw that a barrier was lowered preventing its passage. As a result, the Mission was [again](#) 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.

### Delays:

- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Nova Marivka (non-government-controlled, 64km south of Donetsk), four members of the armed formations (two visibly armed) allowed the Mission to travel towards Staromariivka (62km south of Donetsk) only after 28 minutes, citing “engineering works in the area”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), an armed member of the armed formations allowed the SMM passage in a south-eastern direction only after 22 minutes, citing “a need to wait for a decision from superiors”.
- At a checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremiivka (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), two members of the armed formations (one visibly armed) allowed the Mission to proceed west towards non-government-controlled Donetsk city only after 26 minutes, requesting to inspect the contents of an SMM trailer, which the SMM declined.

Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during four flights: once each over areas near non-government-controlled Velyke Orikhove (27km east of Donetsk), Kypuche (formerly Artemivsk, 46km west of Luhansk), Alchevsk (40km west of Luhansk), and Perevalsk (38km west 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>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
21/12/2021	4	Tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Oleksandrivske (formerly Rozy Liuksemburh, 90km south-east of Donetsk)	Aerial imagery

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

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
22/12/2021	2	Armoured combat vehicle (one MT-LB, one undetermined)	Near Bohdanivka (44km 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 23 December 2021<sup>9</sup>**

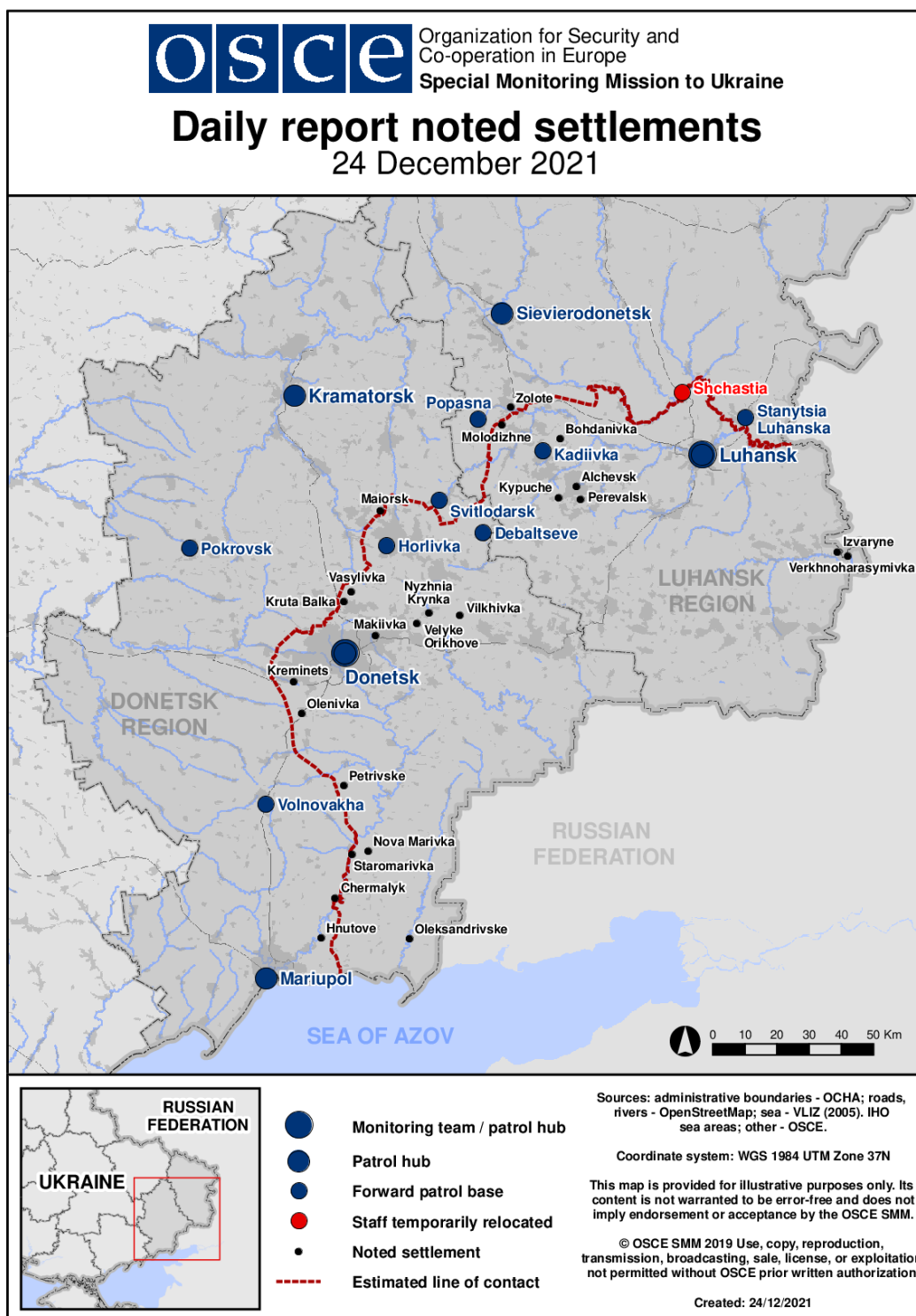
SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera in Chermalyk (government-controlled, 77km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 19:01
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 19:05
	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 19:06
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 19:33
	3-5km SE	Recorded	6	Projectile		N/K	22-Dec, 19:33
	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile		N/K	22-Dec, 19:34
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 19:42
	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	Subsequent to previous event	N/K	22-Dec, 19:42
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:44
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:45
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:46
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:47
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:24
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:25
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:26
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:27
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km E	Recorded	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:43
	3-5km E	Recorded	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:44
	3-5km E	Recorded	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:45
	3-5km E	Recorded	9	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:46
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 17:47
	3-5km E	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:24
	3-5km E	Recorded	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:25
	3-5km E	Recorded	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 18:26
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 19:03
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	22-Dec, 19:05
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 19:44
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	22-Dec, 19:45
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	22-Dec, 19:44
Svitlodarsk (government-controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	2-3km SSE	Heard	5	Burst		Small arms	22-Dec, 22:21
About 2km W from Vilkhivka (non-government-controlled, 40km E of Donetsk)	3-6km W	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 09:20-09:26
	3-6km W	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 09:33-09:36
About 1km SE from Nyzhnia Krynka (non-government-controlled, 31km NE of Donetsk)	1km SE	Heard	11	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 09:55-10:10
E edge of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	8-10km N	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:18-10:30
	8-10km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:37-10:40

<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.

	3-4km SE	Heard	1	Burst		HMG	23-Dec, 10:37-10:40
About 1km SE from Kruta Balka (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Donetsk)	4-5km NNW	Heard	13	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:23-10:35
	3km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:37
	4-5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:37
	4-5km NNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 10:41
SMM camera on N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	WSW to ENE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:06
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	4	Projectile	NE to SW (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:20
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	3	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:21
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:22
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	2	Projectile	NW to SE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:29
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	7	Projectile	N to S (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:29
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	8	Projectile	NNW to SSE (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 17:30
SMM camera in Zolote (government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	2-4km E	Recorded	1	Burst	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	22-Dec, 23:59
	2-4km E	Recorded	3	Projectile	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Dec, 00:00
	2-4km E	Recorded	2	Burst	S to N (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	23-Dec, 03:14
Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58 km W of Luhansk)	2-4km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Impact (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 13:00-13:15
	6-8km NNE	Heard	10	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	23-Dec, 13:00-13:15
	6-8km NNE	Heard	5	Explosion	Impact	N/K	23-Dec, 13:00-13:15
	6-8km WSW	Heard	10	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 13:00-13:15
	6-8km WSW	Heard	6	Explosion	Impact (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 13:00-13:15
Berezivske (non-government controlled, 53km NW of Luhansk)	1-2km N	Heard	2	Explosion	Outgoing (assessed as outside the	N/K	23-Dec, 12:59

					disengagement area near Zolote)		
W edge of Kadiivka (formerly Stakhanov, non-government-controlled, 50km W of Luhansk)	4-5km N	Heard	8	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	23-Dec, 13:01-13:12
	10-12km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	23-Dec, 13:01-13:12

### 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).