

# Daily Report 306/2021

31 December 2021<sup>1</sup>

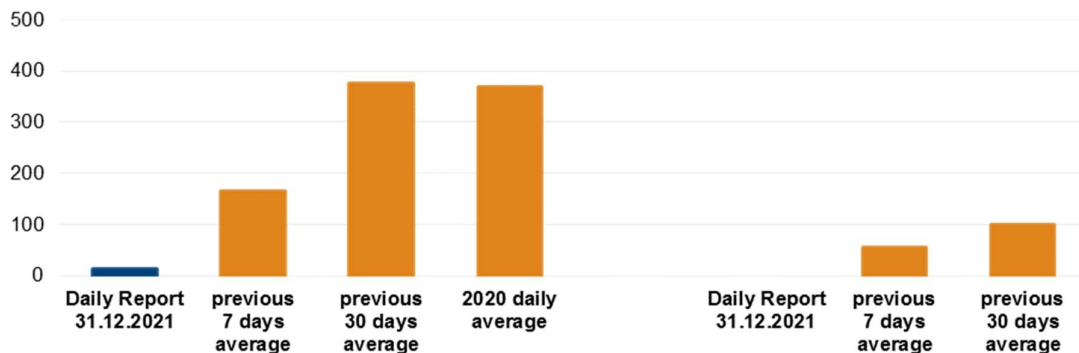
## Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 11 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded four ceasefire violations. In the previous reporting period, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and one corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations.
- The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at two checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.\*

## 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, 30 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, the SMM camera in Petrivske was not operational and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of other SMM cameras.

<sup>3</sup> Including explosions.

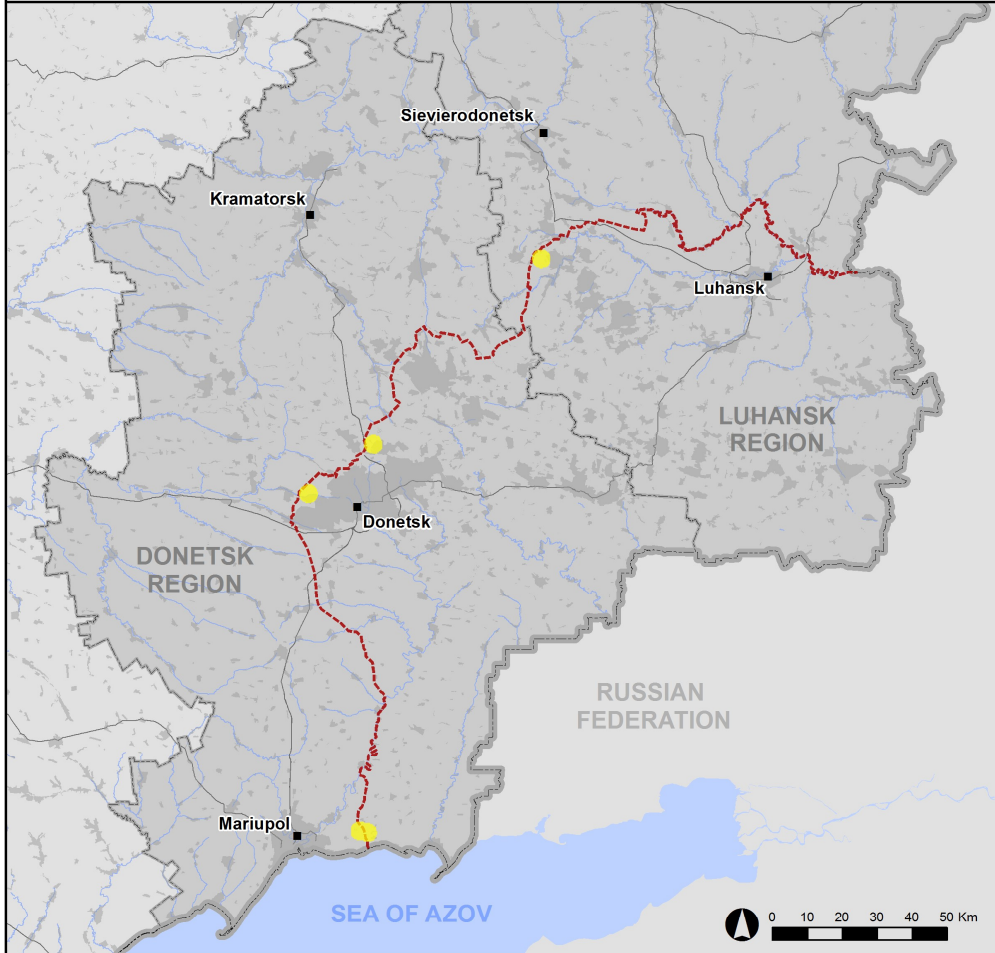
<sup>4</sup> Including from unidentified weapons.

### Map of recorded ceasefire violations

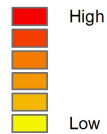


Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

## Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 30 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: 31/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded ten ceasefire violations. Five ceasefire violations occurred in an area north-west of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), three in an area north of Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) and two in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 11 ceasefire violations in the region, ten of which also occurred near Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded four ceasefire violations, all in an area south-west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.

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 98,415 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,950 explosions, 23,596 projectiles in flight, 418 muzzle flashes, 417 illumination flares and at least 47,034 bursts and shots).

#### **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 two 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).

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote**, the Mission saw one member of the armed formations (wearing an armband with “JCCC” written on it). 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 about 3km north of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard four shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 4-6km south-west, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

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

#### **Weapons that the SMM could not verify as withdrawn<sup>6</sup>**

*At a permanent storage in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region*  
30 December

The SMM noted that five tanks (T-64) were missing, compared with its previous visit to this site on 6 December 2021.

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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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

30 December

The SMM noted that all weapons observed at this site during the previous visit on 14 December 2021 were present.

### **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.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM observed six howitzers in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

The SMM saw one armoured personnel carrier in a government-controlled area of Donetsk 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 on the western edge of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard five shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The SMM also facilitated and monitored repair works to a water pipeline near Pivdenne (formerly Leninske, government-controlled, 40km north-east of Donetsk).

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

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska was open, with people queuing to travel in both directions.

The Mission noted that the EECP near Zolote was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was closed.

The Mission observed that the EECP near Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) was open.

### **The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv**

On 30 December, in front of the Office of the *Opposition Platform – For Life* party in Kyiv at 23b Velyka Vasylkivska Street, the SMM observed a gathering of about 100 people (mostly men in their twenties and thirties), some of whom were wearing clothing bearing the sign and logo of *National Corps*, expressing messages critical of a member of parliament. The SMM observed about 120 law enforcement officers nearby and a calm situation.

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

### **\*Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

*The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Minsk agreements have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report of 28 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:

- At a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), two visibly armed members of the armed formations denied the SMM passage further west into the settlement.
- At a checkpoint on road T-0504 about 1.5km south-west of Molodizhne (non-government-controlled, 63km north-west of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage further west citing “orders from superiors”.

#### *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.

#### Other impediments:<sup>7</sup>

- SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) experienced GPS signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming during two flights: once each over areas near Krasnohorivka (government-controlled, 24km north of Donetsk) and over areas near Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km 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.

### Table of weapons

#### Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
<b>Non-government-controlled areas</b>				
30/12/2021	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 <i>Gvozdika</i> , 122mm)	Near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)	Patrol
	4	Towed howitzer (D-30 <i>Lyagushka</i> , 122mm)		

#### **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>				
30/12/2021	1	Armoured personnel carrier (BTR-70)	Near Novobakhmutivka (28km north of Donetsk)	Patrol

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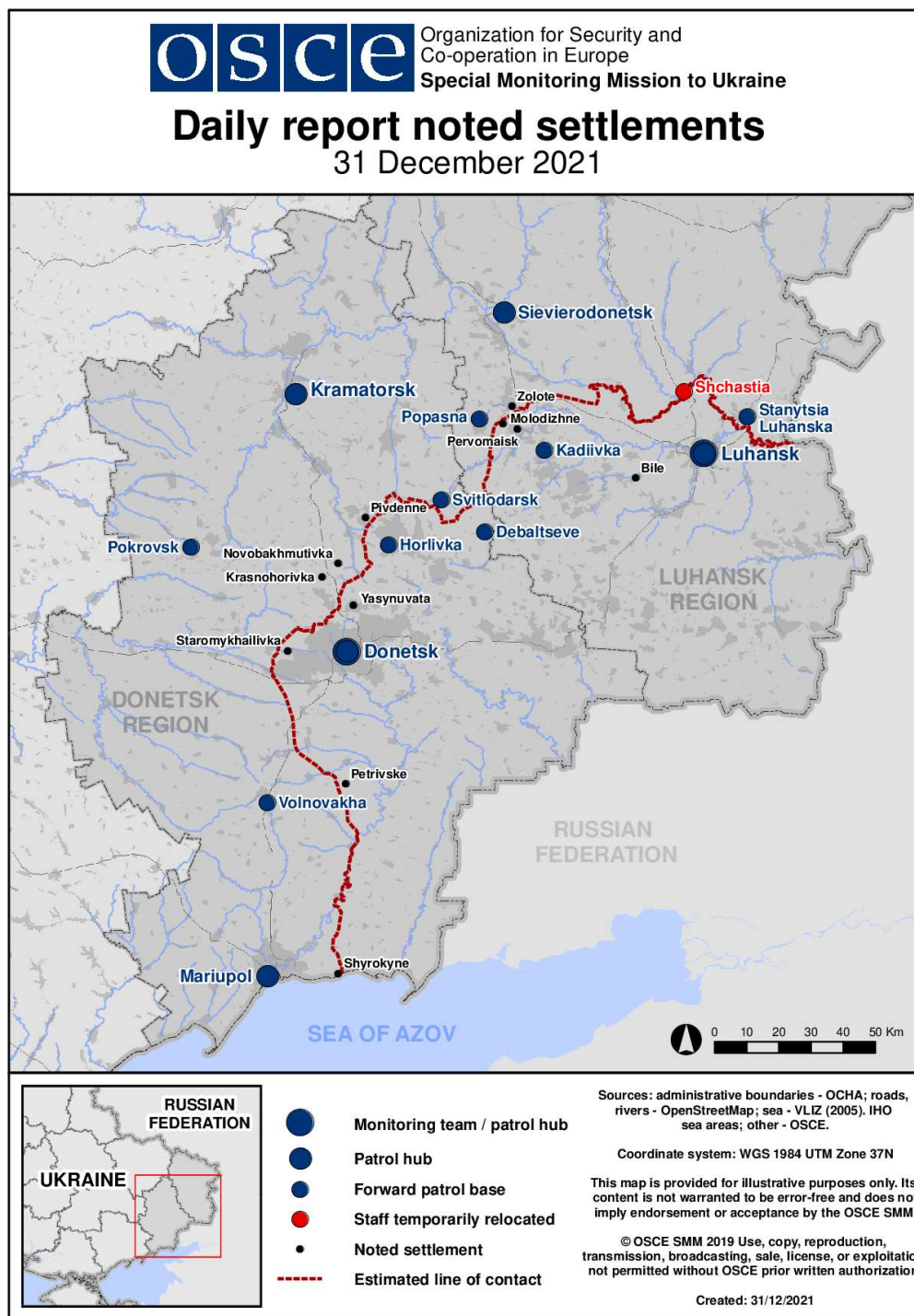
<sup>8</sup> The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

**Table of ceasefire violations as of 30 December 2021<sup>9</sup>**

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	5-7km NNE	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	29-Dec, 20:01
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	W to E	N/K	29-Dec, 20:30
About 1.5km WNW of Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	1km NW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	30-Dec, 08:25
Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	1-2km NW	Heard	3	Shot		Small arms	30-Dec, 10:37
About 3km N of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk)	4-6km SW	Heard	4	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	Small arms	30-Dec, 09:28

<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.

### 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).