

Daily Report 301/2020

18 December 2020¹

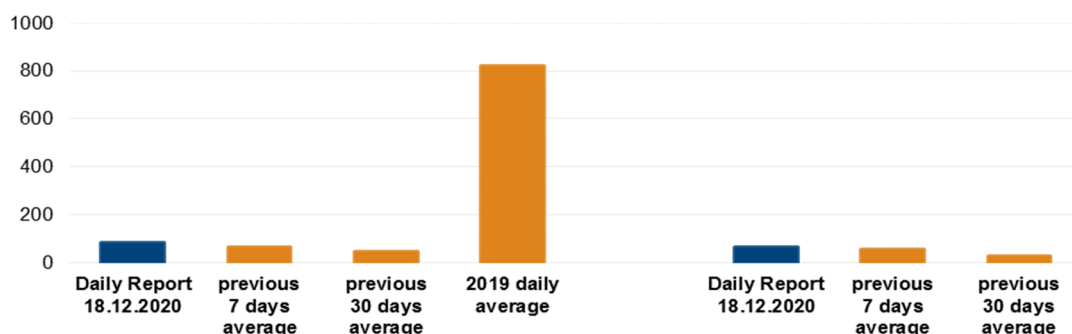
Summary

- The SMM recorded 63 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission recorded 21 ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 18 ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as aimed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in Pervomaisk, Luhansk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and observed a calm situation inside all three.
- The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable repairs to and the construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region and at three entry-exit checkpoints and two checkpoints of the armed formations in Luhansk region.
- The SMM visited two border crossing points, and monitored areas near the border with the Russian Federation outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²

Number of recorded ceasefire violations³

Number of recorded explosions⁴



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 17 December 2020. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² 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 heavy fog obscured the observations of some of the SMM cameras along the contact line.

³ Including explosions

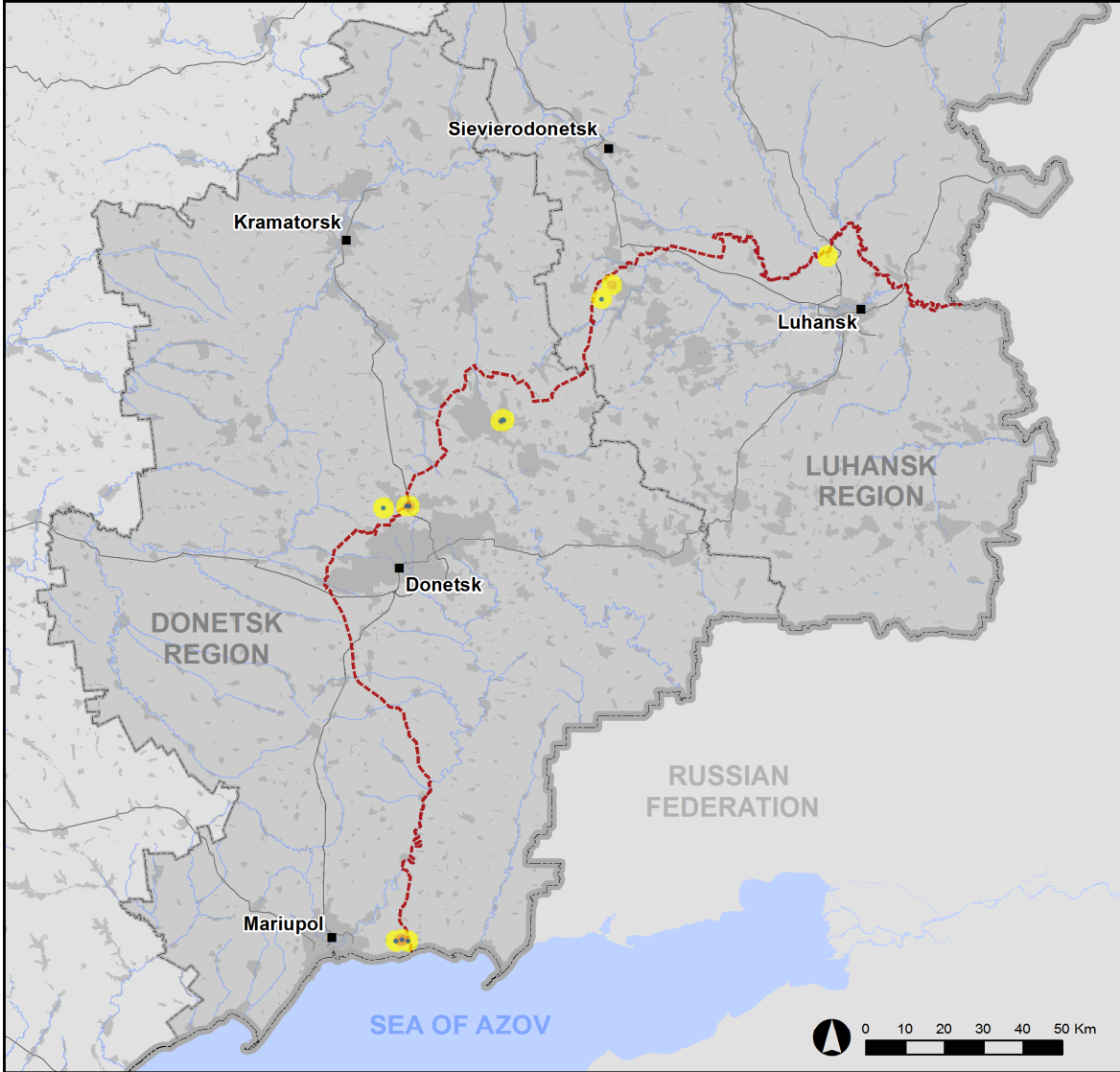
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

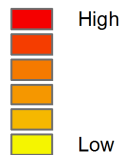


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 17 December 2020



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: 18/12/2020

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 63 ceasefire violations, including 30 undetermined explosions which occurred at northerly directions of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and 19 undetermined explosions recorded near the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk), of which three were recorded in the early afternoon of 17 December (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 28 ceasefire violations in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 21 ceasefire violations, including two undetermined explosions in an area north-west of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the Mission recorded 18 ceasefire violations in the region.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded a total of 3,852 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 1,819 explosions, 119 projectiles in flight, 55 muzzle flashes, 41 illumination flares and 1,818 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle in Pervomaisk, Luhansk region

While positioned on the western edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the Mission heard four bursts and eight shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 500m north-east, assessed as directed at the UAV, which was flying about 500m north-east of the SMM's position. The Mission safely landed the aircraft and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the SMM saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them) on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

While positioned near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard two explosions at an assessed range of 3-5km west-north-west, assessed as controlled detonations of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Near the same checkpoint, the SMM saw four members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them).

While positioned on the western edge of Pervomaisk, the Mission heard four bursts and eight shots of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 500m north-east, assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery (see above).

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

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

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 a government-controlled area of Luhansk region, in violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw a surface-to-air missile system. Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage areas, the Mission saw ten self-propelled howitzers in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further details, see the tables below).

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁶

The Mission observed three armoured personnel carriers in a government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Impact crater near Dachne, Luhansk region

On 16 December, an SMM mini-UAV spotted a recent mortar impact crater in a field about 3.5km north-east of Dachne (non-government-controlled, 47km west of Luhansk), assessed as caused by a probable 82mm mortar round (not seen in imagery from 10 August 2020).

Anti-tank mines near Vodiane, Donetsk region

On 16 December, in a field about 1km south-east of Vodiane (government-controlled, 94km south of Donetsk), an SMM mid-range UAV again spotted 46 anti-tank mines (probable TM-62), assessed as belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces (for previous observations in the area, see SMM Daily Reports of [13 November 2020](#) and [1 December 2020](#)).

SMM facilitation of repairs to and construction and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable construction of a power line between government-controlled Lopaskyne (23km north-west of Luhansk) and Lobacheve (17km north-west of Luhansk), inspection and repairs to a power line in Khrystove (non-government-controlled, 18km north of Luhansk), repairs to a water conduit between government-controlled Raihorodka (34km north-west of Luhansk) and Lopaskyne, and demining activities near government-controlled Heivka (27km north-west of Luhansk) and Hirske (63km west of Luhansk).

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned about 1km north-west of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission recorded three undetermined explosions at an assessed range of 2-4km west-south-west, which occurred near the time a convoy with DFS workers was driving towards Yasynuvata on road M-04.

⁶ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was closed.

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

The Mission also noted that the EECPs near Zolote and Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) were operational 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 remained closed.

Border areas outside government control

While at a border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk) for about two hours, the Mission observed 28 cars (including 17 with “DPR” plates), 12 covered cargo trucks (including six with “DPR” plates), two buses (with “DPR” plates and about 80 passengers in total, mixed genders and ages) and about 37 pedestrians (17 women and 18 men, mixed ages, as well as two children) entering Ukraine. The SMM also observed 46 cars (including 30 with “DPR” plates), ten covered cargo trucks (including four with “DPR” plates) and about 52 pedestrians (23 women and 27 men, mixed ages, as well as two children) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Ulianivske (61km south-east of Donetsk), the Mission observed no cars or pedestrians entering or exiting Ukraine.

The Mission also monitored border areas outside government control near Hlynka (60km south-east of Donetsk), Novoivanivka (57km south-east of Donetsk), Kuznetsovo-Mykhailivka (67km south-east of Donetsk) and Zori (76km south-east of Donetsk).

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, 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, 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 Package of Measures 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 15 December 2020](#)). 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' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Other impediments:

- While conducting a mini-UAV flight near Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km west of Luhansk), the Mission heard four bursts and eight shots of small-arms fire, assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above).

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/12/2020	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
17/12/2020	10	Self-propelled howitzer (2S7 <i>Pion</i> , 203mm)	In Pokrovsk (formerly Krasnoarmiisk, 55km north-west of Donetsk)	Patrol

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
16/12/2020	3	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Popasna (69km west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV

⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

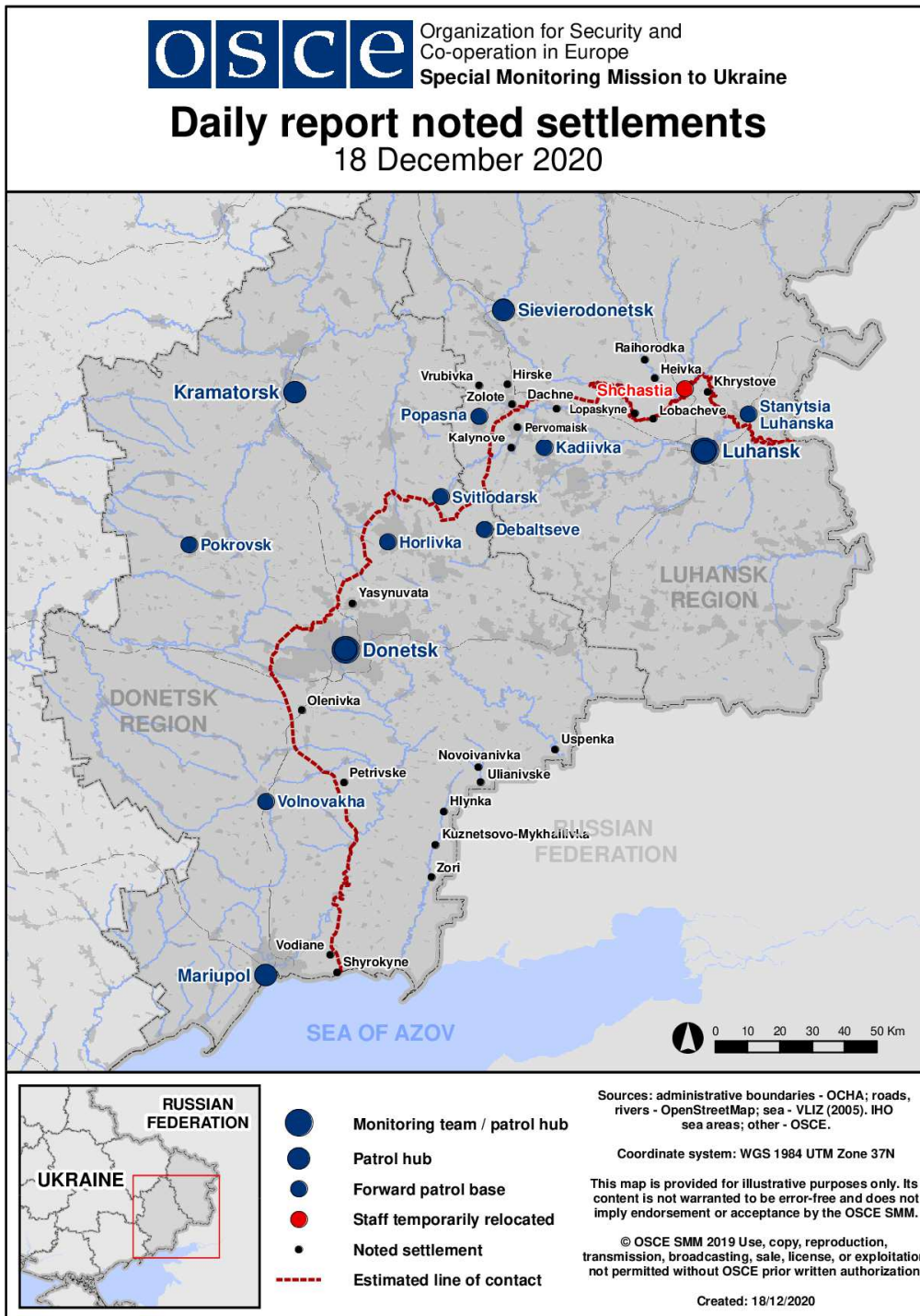
Table of ceasefire violations as of 17 December 2020⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 19:25
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:39
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:40
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:41
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:42
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:43
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	16-Dec, 22:44
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 00:55
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 00:56
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 00:57
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 00:58
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 00:59
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:00
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:00
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:01
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:02
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:04
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:07
	3-5km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:12
	3-5km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:12
	3-5km N	Recorded	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:13
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 01:41
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (ricochet)	N/K	17-Dec, 01:42	
3-5km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, subsequent to previous event	N/K	17-Dec, 01:42	
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	1-2km S	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 17:56
	1-2km S	Recorded	4	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	17-Dec, 17:56
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 17:58
	1-2km S	Recorded	6	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 18:19
	1-2km S	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined, also recorded by the SMM camera in Avdiivka	N/K	17-Dec, 18:31
About 2.5km SE of Avdiivka (government-controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	3-5km WSW	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 13:45-13:46
About 1km NW of the railway station in Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	2-4km WSW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 13:46-13:47

⁸ 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.

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
About 1.5km WNW of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	8-12km W	Heard	7	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 09:48-10:07
About 1.2km NW of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	8-12km W	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 10:14
About 1km NNE of Vuhlehirsk (non-government-controlled, 49km NE of Donetsk)	10-12km W	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 10:32-11:00
About 3.5km E of Kalynove (non-government-controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	8-10km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	17-Dec, 09:39
About 2.5km E of Vesela Hora (non-government-controlled, 16km N of Luhansk)	3-4km WSW	Heard	7	Burst		HMG	17-Dec, 10:06-10:38
W edge of Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	500m NE	Heard	8	Shot	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	Small arms	17-Dec, 13:15
	500m NE	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the Zolote disengagement area	Small arms	17-Dec, 13:15

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ 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).