

OSCCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Daily Report 281/2021

30 November 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 139 ceasefire violations, including 90 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 159 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 163 ceasefire violations and 109 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at two SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) near government-controlled Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region, and non-government-controlled Zhovte, Luhansk region.
- Members of the armed formations denied the Mission passage towards government-controlled areas near Zolote, Stanytsia Luhanska, and Molodizhne, Luhansk region.*
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske.
- The SMM facilitated the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The Mission continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at five entry-exit checkpoints and five corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The SMM saw a convoy of an international organization in a non-government-controlled area near Rozdolne, Donetsk region.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at checkpoints of the armed formations near Staromykhailivka and Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske), Donetsk region, a border crossing point outside government-control in Voznesenivka (formerly at Chervonopartyzansk), and at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, Luhansk region. Its UAVs again experienced instances of probable jamming.*

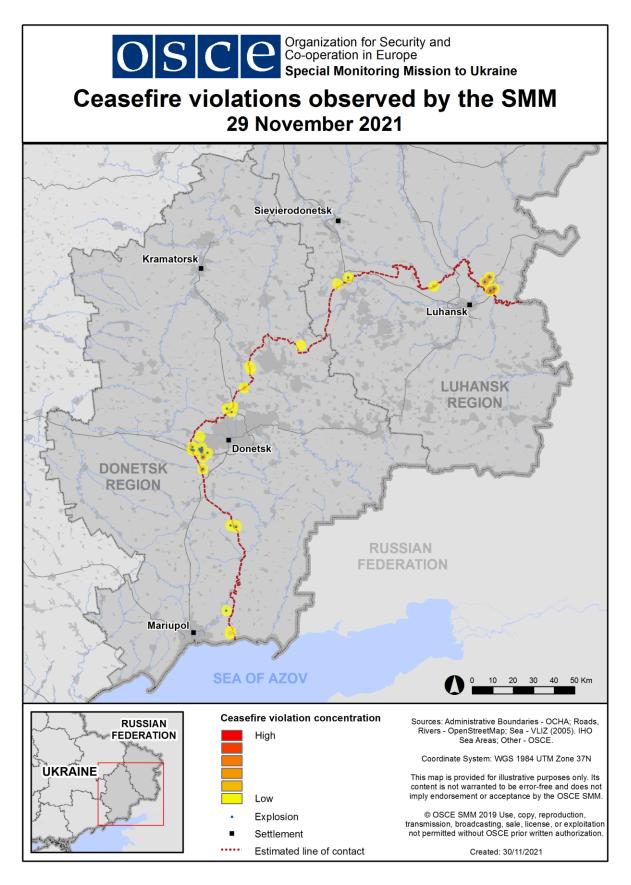


¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 29 November 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

- ³ Including explosions.
- ⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera near Oktiabr mine was not operational and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some other SMM cameras.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations



In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded 139 ceasefire violations, including 90 explosions (21 outgoing and 69 undetermined). The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas northeast, north-west and south-west of Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk), north, east, and west of Oleksandrivka (non-government-controlled, 20km southwest of Donetsk), and south of the disengagement area near Petrivske (non-governmentcontrolled, 41km south of Donetsk). (See below.) In the previous 24 hours, the Mission recorded 159 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred in areas south of the disengagement area near Petrivske.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 163 ceasefire violations including 109 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations occurred in areas north of the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk). (See below.) In the previous 24 hours, the Mission 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 87,103 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 24,002 explosions, 20,814 projectiles in flight, 395 muzzle flashes, 369 illumination flares and at least 41,523 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at two SMM mini-UAVs near Verkhnotoretske, Donetsk region, and Zhovte, Luhansk region

On 29 November, while positioned on the western outskirts of Verkhnotoretske (governmentcontrolled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard 12 bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1km south-south-east of its position, assessed as targeting the UAV. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area. During the same flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

On the same day, while positioned on the eastern outskirts of Zhovte (non-governmentcontrolled, 17km north-west of Luhansk) to conduct an announced mini-UAV flight, the Mission heard ten shots of small-arms fire at an assessed range of 1km north of its position, assessed as targeting the UAV. The SMM landed the UAV and left the area. During the same flight, the UAV also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming.*

Armed formations denied the SMM passage towards government-controlled areas near Zolote, Stanytsia Luhanska, and Molodizhne, Luhansk region

On the morning of 29 November, the armed formations in Luhansk region denied three SMM patrols passage to government-controlled areas.

The first denial occurred at 09:06 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 10:15 at the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk). The third occurred at 10:58 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). On the first occasion, members of the armed formations cited "the SMM's safety", on the second, "a lack of permission" from those

in control in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region and on the third occasion, "orders from superiors".* (See <u>SMM Spot Report 32/2021</u>.)

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska**, the Mission saw three 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).

During the reporting period, SMM patrols heard 49 undetermined explosions unable to be assessed as either inside or outside the disengagement area, as well as 32 undetermined explosions and 39 bursts and shots of small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire assessed as outside the disengagement area but within 5km of its periphery.

During the reporting period, SMM patrols heard one undetermined explosion and five bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Zolote** but within 5km of its periphery.

Near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area, the SMM saw five members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them). 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.

During the reporting period, SMM patrols heard seven undetermined explosions and ten bursts and shots of small-arms fire assessed as outside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** but within 5km of its periphery.

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 Mission saw six howitzers and six probable tanks in nongovernment-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, in a training area near Novoselivka (31km north-east of Donetsk) and at a compound.

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw one anti-aircraft system at a compound in a government-controlled area of Donetsk region. (For further information, see the tables below.)

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

The SMM observed three probable armoured combat vehicles in a training area near nongovernment-controlled Novoselivka, Donetsk region. (For further information, see the table below.)

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

De-mining activities near government-controlled Sopyne, Donetsk region

About 600m north-west of Sopyne (government-controlled, 101km south of Donetsk), the SMM observed four vehicles bearing the logo of an international organization and ten people (eight men, two women, in their thirties and forties) wearing protective gear and using mine detectors to carry out de-mining activities on the western side of a local road.

SMM facilitation of the operation and repair of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) (DFS). While positioned at two locations near the DFS, the SMM heard eight explosions (five outgoing and three undetermined), assessed as within a 5km radius of the DFS.

The Mission also monitored adherence to a "window of silence" to enable assessment and repair works to a water pipeline in Horlivka (non-government-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was open and that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kreminets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) was closed. The SMM also observed that the EECP near Novotroitske (government-controlled, 36km south-west of Donetsk) and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Olenivka (non-government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) were open, with civilian traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

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.

Along road T-1316, between the EECP near Zolote and the following intersection, on the western side of the road, the Mission observed three workers building a fence. (For previous observations in the area, see <u>SMM Daily Report of 27 November 2021.</u>)

Border areas outside government control⁶

While at a border crossing point near Marynivka (78km east of Donetsk), for about an hour, the Mission saw 16 cars (including 13 with "DPR" plates), one bus (with "DPR" plates), and 18 people (nine women and eight men, in their forties and fifties, and one child) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 11 cars (including six with "DPR" plates), two covered cargo trucks (with "DPR" plates), two buses (with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers

⁶ 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.

of mixed genders and ages) and 15 people (six women and nine men, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

While at a border crossing point near Novoazovsk (102km south-east of Donetsk), for about 25 minutes, the Mission saw 19 cars (including 11 with "DPR" plates) entering Ukraine. During the same time, the SMM saw 12 cars (including seven with "DPR" plates), five trucks (including four with covered cargo, three of them with "DPR" plates) and one bus (with "DPR" plates, carrying passengers of mixed genders and ages) exiting Ukraine.

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 Ukraine. Upon its arrival at the location, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

While at the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka, the Mission did not observe any cargo railway cars. Upon its arrival at the location, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area.*

The SMM also monitored areas close to the border with the Russian Federation near Shcherbak (92km south of Donetsk), Kovske (91km south of Donetsk) and Samiilove (89km south of Donetsk).

Convoy in non-government-controlled area, Donetsk region

About 2.5km north-west of Rozdolne (non-government-controlled, 46km south-east of Donetsk), the SMM saw a convoy of three vehicles and one cargo truck bearing the logo of an international organization travelling south towards Starolaspa (non-government-controlled, 51km south of Donetsk).

The SMM continued monitoring in Kherson, Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Lviv 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 near Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the Mission passage west into the settlement citing "the SMM's safety". While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through in both directions.
- At a checkpoint near Khreshchatytske (formerly Krasnoarmiiske, non-governmentcontrolled, 86km south of Donetsk), a visibly armed member of the armed formations <u>again</u> denied the Mission passage west towards Kulykove (non-government-controlled, 87km south of Donetsk), citing "ongoing de-mining and engineering activities" in the area. While at the checkpoint, the Mission observed civilian traffic passing through.
- At the Chervona Mohyla railway station in Voznesenivka (formerly Chervonopartyzansk, non-government-controlled, 65km south-east of Luhansk), a member of the armed formations told the Mission to leave the area. (See above.)
- At a border crossing point near Voznesenivka, a member of the armed formations told the SMM to leave the area, referring to a lack of prior coordination with those in control in Luhansk region. (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.

Other impediments:7

- Two SMM mini-UAVs were assessed as targeted by small-arms fire while flying over areas near Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km north-east of Donetsk) and Zhovte (non-government-controlled, 17km north-west of Luhansk). During both flights, the mini-UAVs also experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming. (See above.)
- SMM mini-UAVs experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, during seven flights: on four occasions while flying over areas near Shyroka Balka (non-government-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk) on two occasions while flying over areas near Katerynivka (formerly Yuvileine, non-government-controlled, 8km west of Luhansk), and once while flying over areas near Sabivka (non-government-controlled, 13km west of Luhansk).

⁷ 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			
	Non-government-controlled areas						
25/11/21	6	Probable tank (type undetermined)	In a training area near Novoselivka (31km north-east of Donetsk)	Satellite imagery			
27/11/21	4	Towed howitzer (D-30A Lyagushka, 122mm)	At a common dia com Dila (201an avect of Lashanala)	Mini-UAV			
21/11/21	2	Self-propelled howitzer (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm)	At a compound near Bile (22km west of Luhansk)				

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons Type of weapon		Location	Source of observation					
	Government-controlled areas								
29/11/21	1	Self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 Tunguska)	At a compound near Andriivka (61km south of Donetsk)	Patrol					

Table of military and military-type presence in the security $zone^8$

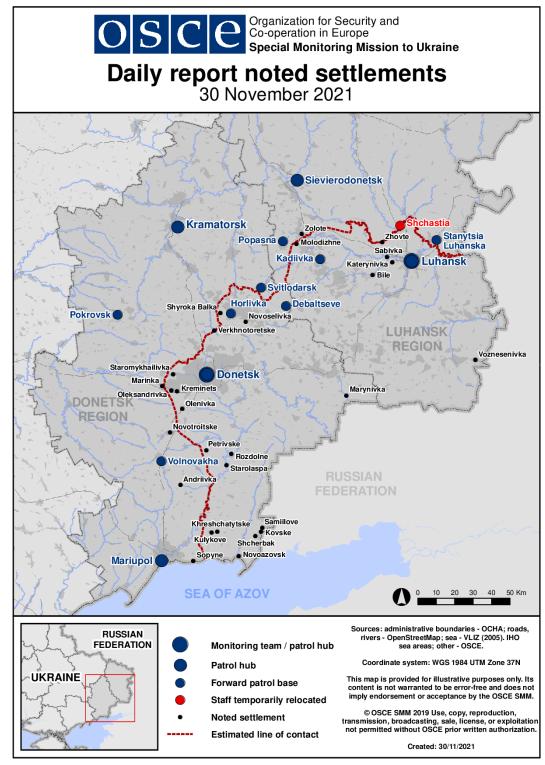
Date	No.	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation			
Non-government-controlled areas							
25/11/21	5/11/21 3 Probable armoured combat vehicle		In a training area near Novoselivka	Satellite imagery			

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

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera at Donetsk Filtration Station (15km N of Donetsk)	0.8-1.5km SSW	Recorded	3	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Nov, 22:38
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	SE to NW	N/K	28-Nov, 19:07
(government-controlled, 100km S of	4-6km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Nov, 21:10
Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	28-Nov, 22:04
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	28-Nov, 22:04
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	W to E	N/K	28-Nov, 22:05
	3-5km N	Recorded	2	Projectile	W to E	N/K	28-Nov, 23:15
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Nov, 23:23
	4-6km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Nov, 23:55
	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	29-Nov, 00:47
SMM camera in Svitlodarsk (government- controlled, 57km NE of Donetsk)	3-5km SSE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	29-Nov, 00:07
About 700m SE of Kreminets (non-	3-5km NW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:05-09:08
government-controlled, 16km SW of	3-4km NW	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:09
Donetsk)	1-2km NE	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:17
	1-2km SW	Heard	5	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:17
	1-2km SW	Heard	7	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	29-Nov, 09:20
	1-2km SW	Heard	3	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	29-Nov, 09:22
	1-2km SW	Heard	6	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	29-Nov, 09:26
About 700m SSE of Olenivka (non- government-controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	3-5km NW	Heard	17	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:10-09:20
Oleksandrivka (non-government-	3km NE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:05
controlled, 20km SW of Donetsk)	2km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:05
	2-3km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:05
	2km NE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:08
	2km ENE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	3-4km NW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2km ENE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	3km WNW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2-3km ENE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2km ENE	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2-3km WNW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
	2km E	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 09:11-09:15
Staromykhailivka (non-government- controlled, 15km W of Donetsk)	1-2km SW	Heard	5	Shot		Small arms	29-Nov, 10:13
Shyroka Balka (non-government-	2km W	Heard	6	Shot		HMG	29-Nov, 10:33
controlled, 34km NE of Donetsk)	2km SW	Heard	2	Shot		HMG	29-Nov, 12:18
About 800m N of Petrivske (non- government-controlled, 41km S of	4-5km S	Heard	4	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Nov, 10:38
Donetsk)	4km S	Heard	4	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Nov, 10:00
	4km S	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Nov, 10:18
About 1km NW of the railway station in	4-5km SW	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 12:55
Yasynuvata (non-government-controlled, 16km NE of Donetsk)	4-5km SW	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 13:14
About 2km E of Bohdanivka (government- controlled, 41km SW of Donetsk)	3-4km SSE	Heard	3	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske	Small arms	29-Nov, 11:19

⁹ 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
	3-4km SSE	Heard	3	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Petrivske)	N/K	29-Nov, 12:20-12:25
Orlivske (government-controlled, 82km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Heard	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 11:05
SE edge of Avdiivka (government- controlled, 17km N of Donetsk)	1-2km SSW	Heard	5	Explosion	Outgoing	N/K	29-Nov, 11:00-11:03
Verkhnotoretske (government-controlled, 23km NE of Donetsk)	1km SSE	Heard	12	Burst		Small arms	29-Nov, 11:07
E edge of Zhovte (non-government- controlled, 17km NW of Luhansk)	1km N	Heard	10	Shot		Small arms	29-Nov, 11:35
Pervomaisk (non-government-controlled, 58km W of Luhansk)	3-4km WNW	Heard	5	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	29-Nov, 11:42
Zolote-5/Mykhailivka (non-government- controlled, 60km W of Luhansk)	3-4km N	Heard	1	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Nov, 13:22
E edge of Stanytsia Luhanska (government- controlled, 16km NE of Luhansk)	2-4km SSW	Heard	49	Explosion	Undetermined (unable to assess if inside or outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Nov, 14:59-15:17
	3-5km WNW	Heard	14	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Nov, 14:59-15:17
	3-5km WNW	Heard	8	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Nov, 14:59-15:17
	3-5km WNW	Heard	12	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	HMG	29-Nov, 14:59-15:17
	1-3km SSE	Heard	18	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area)	N/K	29-Nov, 15:20-15:42
	1-3km SSE	Heard	1	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Nov, 15:20-15:42
	3-5km NNW	Heard	27	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	29-Nov, 15:20-15:42
	1-3km S	Heard	18	Shot	Assessed as outside the disengagement area	Small arms	29-Nov, 17:04-17:10



Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions¹⁰

¹⁰ 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).