

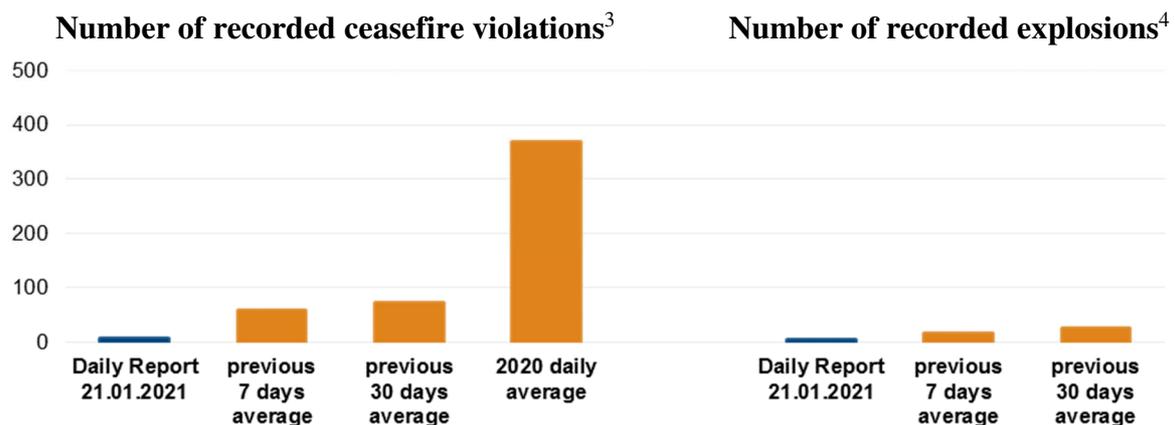
Daily Report 15/2021

21 January 2021¹

Summary

- The SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.
- The Mission recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it also recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- Small-arms fire was assessed as directed at an SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Talakivka, Donetsk region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and observed people inside the area near Petrivske during daytime.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and three corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- The Mission's freedom of movement continued to be restricted.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 20 January 2021. 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 weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of some of the other SMM cameras.

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 20 January 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration

- High
- Medium
- Low

- 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.

© OSCE SMM 2019 Use, copy, reproduction, transmission, broadcasting, sale, license, or exploitation not permitted without OSCE prior written authorization.

Created: 21/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded seven ceasefire violations: four undetermined explosions in areas north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk) and three bursts of small-arms fire in an area east of Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) (see below). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded one ceasefire violation in the region.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations. In the [previous reporting period](#), it also recorded no ceasefire violations. The last time the Mission recorded ceasefire violations in the region was on the [evening of 17 January](#).

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding additional measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has so far recorded at least 6,321 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,668 explosions, 911 projectiles in flight, 90 muzzle flashes, 55 illumination flares and at least 2,597 bursts and shots).

Small-arms fire assessed as directed at SMM mini-unmanned aerial vehicle near Talakivka, Donetsk region

While positioned on the eastern edge of Talakivka to conduct an announced mini-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) flight, the SMM heard three bursts of small-arms fire at an assessed distance of 4km east, assessed as aimed at the UAV, which was flying over positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 4km east of the SMM's position. The SMM safely landed the UAV and left the area.*

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 20 January, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations, two of whom walked inside the area to about 350m north of its southern edge (where another member of the armed formations was already standing) and then returned. All members of the armed formations were wearing armbands with "JCCC" written on them.

During the day on 19 January, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), an SMM long-range UAV spotted a person inside a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 1.5km east-north-east of the area's south-western corner. The same UAV spotted a person near a former position of the armed formations about 350m north-west of the area's south-eastern corner.

On 20 January, while positioned at three locations near the disengagement area, 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.

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

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM saw 21 multiple launch rocket systems in a non-government-controlled area of Luhansk region (for further information, see the table below).

Mine hazard signs in Chernenko, Donetsk region

On the south-eastern edge of Chernenko (government-controlled, 86km south of Donetsk), on the northern edge of a local road, the SMM saw for the first time at least seven mine hazard signs (red rectangles with “Stop, Mines” written on them in Cyrillic), some of them near inhabited houses.

Facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The SMM facilitated and monitored adherence to a localised ceasefire to enable railway inspection, maintenance and vegetation clearance near Vilkhove (government-controlled, 22km north-east of Luhansk).

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk) and monitored the security situation near the pumping station close to Vasylivka (non-government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission saw that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) was operational but did not observe any civilian traffic. It also noted that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near Kremiets (non-government-controlled, 16km south-west of Donetsk) remained closed.

The Mission observed that the EECP near Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk) was operational but did not see any civilian traffic.

In Luhansk region, the Mission also noted that the EECP near Zolote was operational but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was not operational. It also observed that the checkpoint of the armed formations 3km south-east of the bridge in Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) was not operational.

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, 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 12 January 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.

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:⁶

- On 20 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Marinka (government-controlled, 23km south-west of Donetsk) and Petrivske (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk).
- On 20 January, while conducting an announced mini-UAV flight near Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk), the Mission heard three bursts of small-arms fire assessed as aimed at the UAV (see above).
- On 19 January, an SMM interlocutor (man, age unknown) in Brianka (non-government-controlled, 46km south-west of Luhansk) refused to provide the SMM further information over the phone on an alleged civilian casualty without permission from those in control.
- On 20 January, two SMM interlocutors (men in their forties) in Holubivka (formerly Kirovsk, non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk) refused to provide the SMM information on an alleged civilian casualty without permission from those in control.
- On 20 January, an SMM interlocutor (woman in her fifties) in Holubivske (non-government-controlled, 51km west of Luhansk) refused to provide the SMM information on an alleged civilian casualty without permission from those in control.

⁶ For cases of probable jamming and jamming mentioned in this section, the interference could have originated from anywhere within the radius of kilometres from the UAVs' positions.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

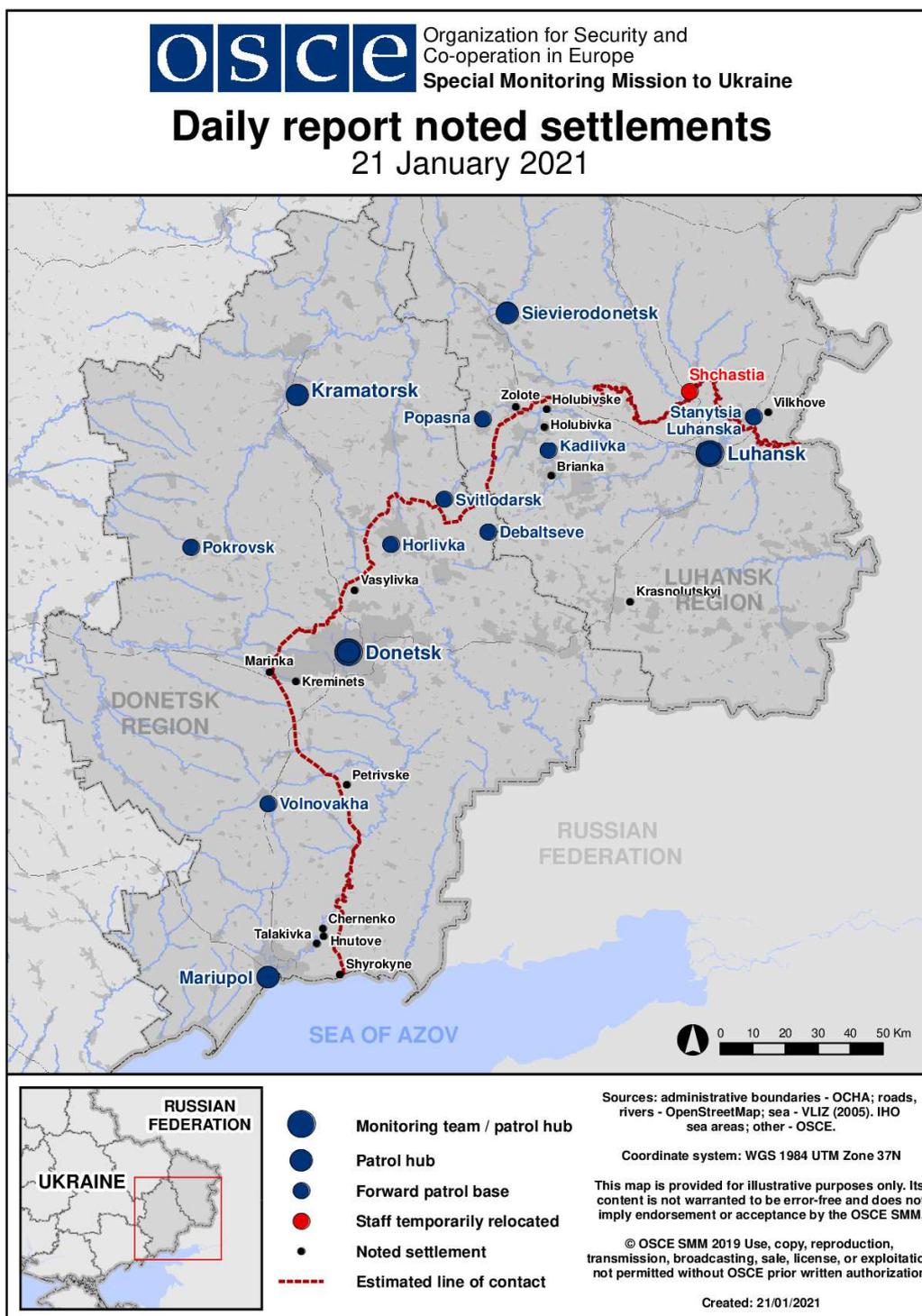
Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Non-government-controlled areas				
19/1/2021	21	Multiple launch rocket system (BM-21 <i>Grad</i> , 122mm)	Near Krasnolutskyi (52km southwest of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

Table of ceasefire violations as of 20 January 2021⁷

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 N	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined (also recorded by the SMM camera in Hnutove)	N/K	19-Jan, 20:25
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	19-Jan, 20:25
E edge of Talakivka (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	4km E	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	20-Jan, 12:28

⁷ 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 regions⁸



⁸ 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).