

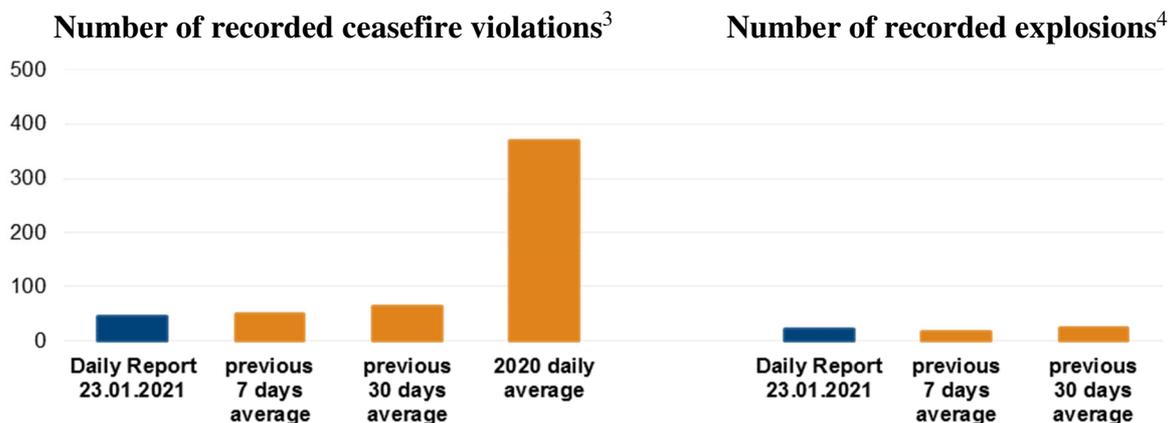
Daily Report 17/2021

23 January 2021¹

Summary

- The Mission recorded 45 ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In the previous reporting period, it recorded 39 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM recorded no ceasefire violations in Luhansk region. In the previous reporting period, it also recorded no ceasefire violations in the region.
- The Mission continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and spotted people inside the latter two areas during daytime.
- The Mission facilitated and monitored adherence to localised ceasefires to enable the assessment and operation of critical civilian infrastructure. It heard 23 ceasefire violations close to the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS), near and during the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving towards the station.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at four 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, 22 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 cameras in Petrivske and Zolote were not operational.

³ Including explosions.

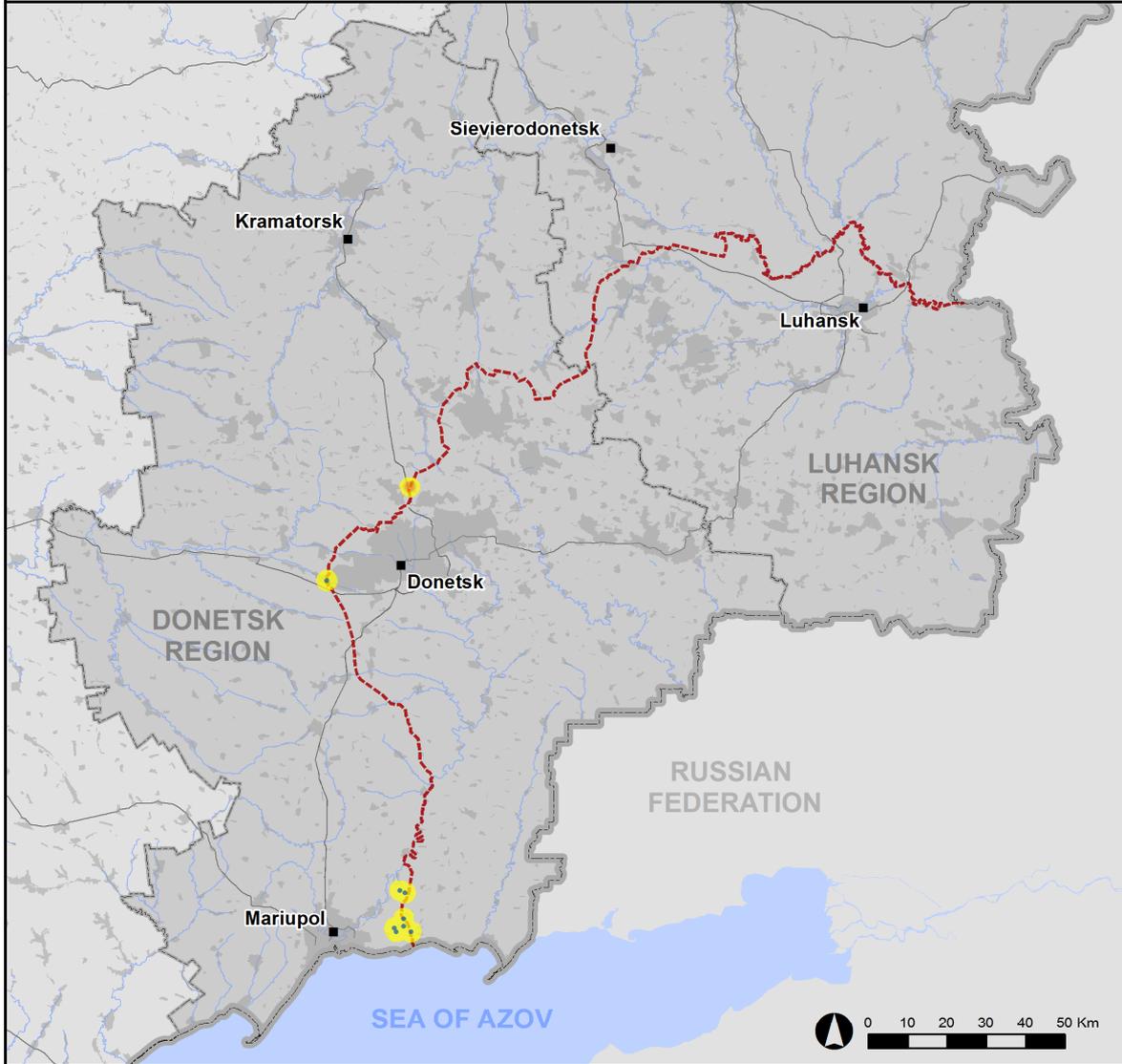
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

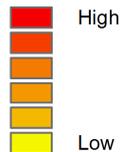


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 22 January 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: 23/01/2021

In Donetsk region, the Mission recorded 45 ceasefire violations, including 21 undetermined explosions. The majority of ceasefire violations were recorded in areas north-north-west of the Donetsk Filtration Station (DFS) (15km north of Donetsk) on the morning of 22 January and north of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km south of Donetsk). In the [previous reporting period](#), the SMM recorded 39 ceasefire violations in the region, almost all in areas north of the DFS.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded no ceasefire violations, as in the [previous reporting period](#). 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 6,405 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 2,727 explosions, 912 projectiles in flight, 90 muzzle flashes, 55 illumination flares and at least 2,621 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

On 22 January, the Mission saw two members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), on the southern edge of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge (15km north-east of Luhansk).

In the morning of 21 January, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote** (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk), an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted two people inside former positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces – one about 500m west-south-west and the other about 3km west-south-west of the area’s north-eastern corner.

On 22 January, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the area, the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them), two of whom entered the area and walked to about 350m north of its southern edge and then returned, accompanied by four people in medical protective gear (one carrying a canister with a spraying device).

During the day on 21 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 its 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 22 January, while positioned on the western edge of Petrivske, the Mission saw a man (in his thirties) in military-type clothing carrying an assault rifle (AK type) and walking westward on road C-051532.

Withdrawal of weapons

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

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, an SMM long-range UAV spotted 18 tanks in a training area in a non-government-controlled area of Donetsk region (for further information, see the table below).

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

The SMM observed armoured combat vehicles in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including in a residential area (for further information, see the table below).

Facilitation of maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the DFS. While positioned about 2km south-south-east of Kamianka (government-controlled, 20km north of Donetsk), the SMM heard 23 bursts and shots of small-arms fire, assessed as within a 5km radius of the station, which occurred near and during the time when a bus with DFS workers was driving on road M-04 towards the station.

The SMM also 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).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Donetsk region, the Mission noted that the entry-exit-checkpoint (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 operational, with traffic passing through in both directions.

In Luhansk region, the SMM noted that the EECP near Stanytsia Luhanska was operational, with people queuing to travel in both directions. It also observed a golf cart operating between the repaired span of the bridge and the EECP.

The Mission again 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 were not operational.

On the southern edge of the former checkpoint, the SMM saw seven workers with heavy construction equipment unloading metal containers near it. At the latter checkpoint, on the north-eastern edge of road H-21, the Mission saw five workers conducting welding works on a light pole.

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

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:⁷

- On 21 January, an SMM long-range UAV experienced dual GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by jamming, while flying over areas between Zaitseve (50km north-east of Donetsk) and Slavne (government-controlled, 26km south-west of Donetsk) as well as GPS signal interference, assessed as caused by probable jamming, while flying over areas between Slavne and Berezove (government-controlled, 31km south-west of Donetsk), and between Mykolaivka (government-controlled, 40km south of Donetsk) and Zuivka (non-government-controlled, 34km east of Donetsk).

⁷ 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 UAV's 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				
21/01/2021	18	Tank (two T-64 and 16 type undetermined)	In a training area near Novoselivka (37km north-east of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁸

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
21/01/2021	4	Infantry fighting vehicle (three BMP-1 and one BMP variant)	Near Berezove (31km south-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	2	Armoured personnel carrier (one BTR variant and one type undetermined)		
	1	Armoured recovery vehicle (BREM)		
	5	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a compound near Vasylivka (48km south of Donetsk)	
	2	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	In a residential area in Novozvanivka (70km west of Luhansk)	

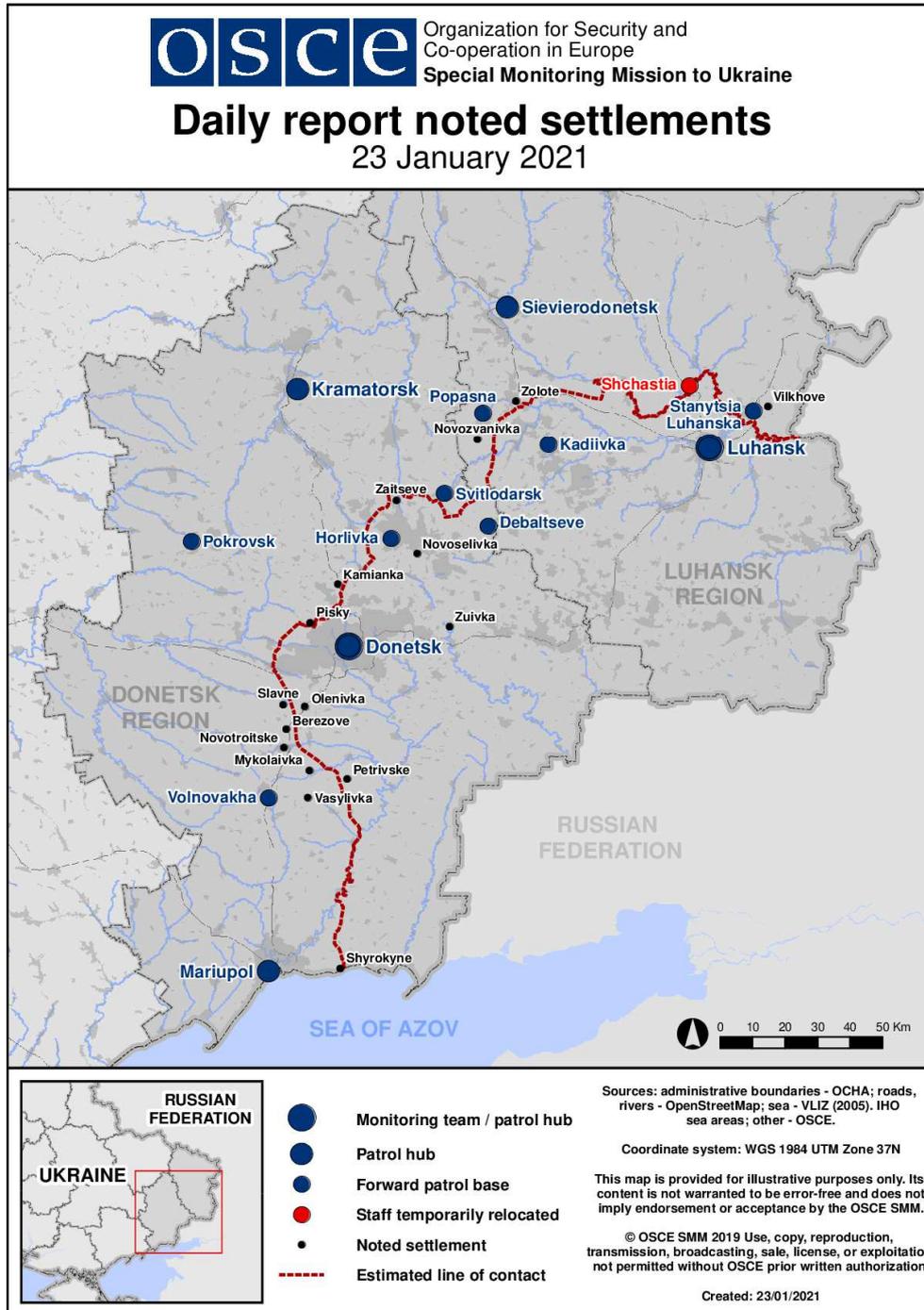
⁸ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 22 January 2021⁹

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government- controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	2-4km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:25
	1-2km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:38
	1-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:39
	1-2km ESE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:41
SMM camera at entry-exit checkpoint in Marinka (government- controlled, 23km SW of Donetsk)	1-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Projectile	NW to SE	N/K	21-Jan, 23:10
	1-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 23:20
	1-3km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 23:43
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government- controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	4-6km NNW	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:20
	4-6km NNE	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:20
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:24
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	3	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:25
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:26
	5-7km NNW	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:28
	5-7km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:29
	7-9km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:30
	7-9km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:31
	7-9km N	Recorded	2	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:32
	7-9km N	Recorded	1	Explosion	Undetermined	N/K	21-Jan, 20:41
About 2km SSE of Kamianka (government- controlled, 20km N of Donetsk)	500m E	Heard	3	Burst		Small arms	22-Jan, 09:09
	500m E	Heard	20	Shot and burst		Small arms	22-Jan, 09:23

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.

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).