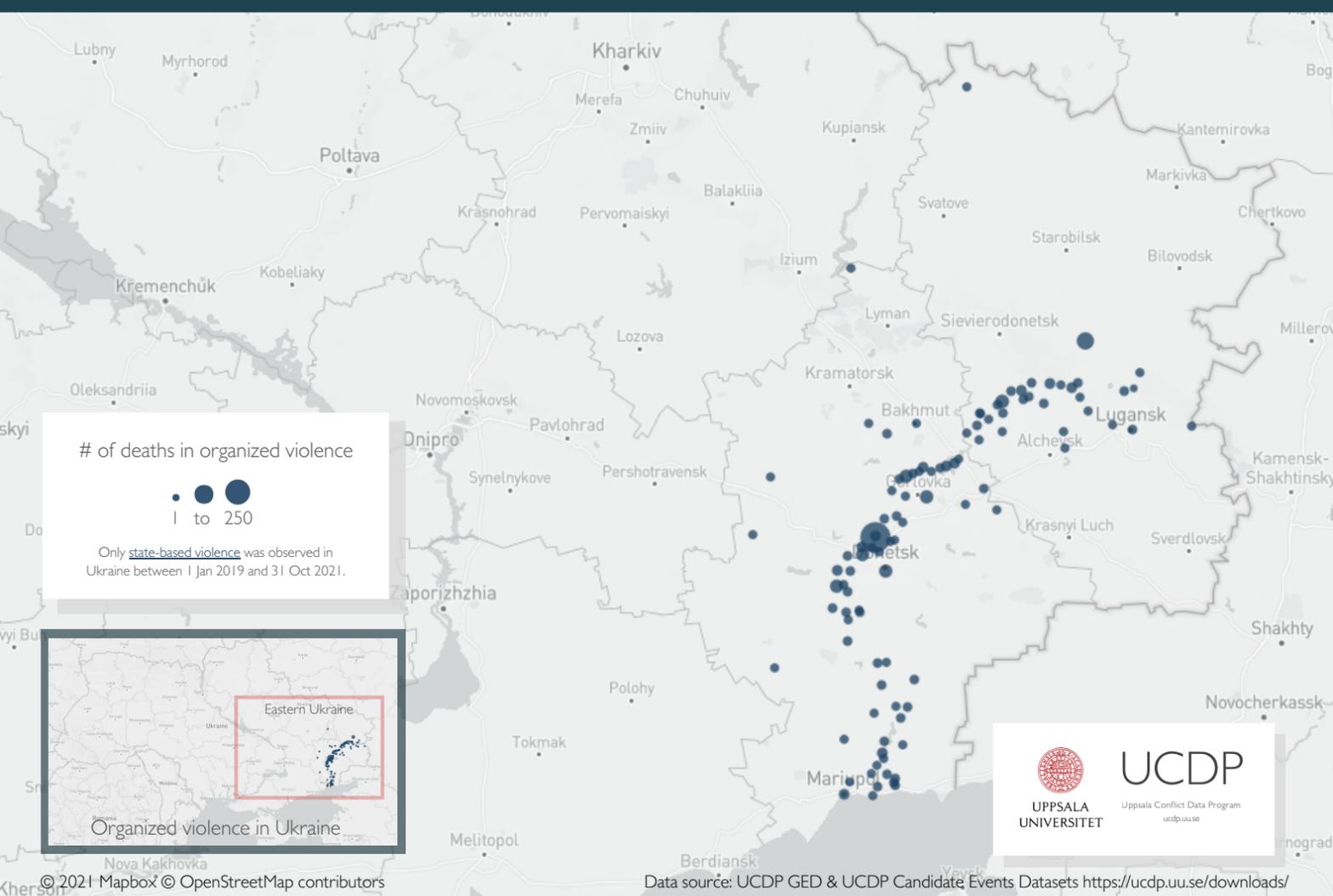




# ENDURING DEADLY VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

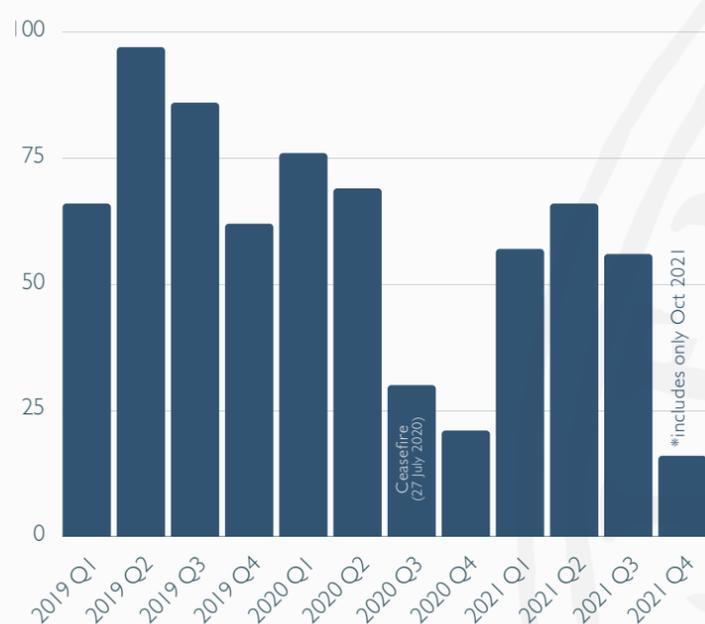
Organized violence in eastern Ukraine (1 Jan 2019 - 31 October 2021)



As the conflict in eastern Ukraine enters its 7th year, violence and insecurity still prevail, with clashes continuing to take lives. There have been numerous attempts at implementing ceasefires, but none has managed to last more than a few months. Today, the Minsk II agreement, signed in February 2015 to resolve the conflict, appears harder than ever to implement. The mobilization of Russia along the Ukrainian border in April 2021 and November-December 2021 highlights how far from a resolution the parties are, and that the conflict in eastern Ukraine remains a source of instability on both a national and international scale.

Since its peak in 2014, the conflict has de-escalated considerably. Nevertheless, creating long-lasting ceasefires has proven to be extremely challenging. One of the most successful attempts was the comprehensive ceasefire that came to effect on July 27, 2020. The following few months became the quietest period in the entire conflict. Yet, during the first quarter of 2021, violence gradually escalated again, and reached the pre-ceasefire level. In 2021, the conflict has claimed at least 200 lives so far and numerous ceasefire violations have been recorded. One persistent aspect of the conflict in Donbass (the area covering Donetsk and Lugansk in eastern Ukraine) is that the contact line cuts right through populated areas. As a result of the constant use of heavy weapons by both sides, including artillery, civilians in the vicinity face a constant risk of death or injury.

## Fatalities in organized violence in eastern Ukraine



Since 2019, each year, **at least 20 civilians** were killed as a result of state-based violence between the Government of Ukraine and DPR & LPR in Donbass.

The failure to uphold the July 2020 ceasefire demonstrates the difficulty in ending the violence with ceasefires alone. For violence to end, it has become apparent that there are political and security-related obstacles that need to be overcome.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine remains deeply tied to the national security of Ukraine on the one hand, Russia's security on the other, and how these differing interests tie into the European security architecture. Without addressing these aspects, attempts at resolving the conflict have a very high risk of failure.



Data source: UCDP GED & UCDP Candidate Events Datasets <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/>

The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) is the world's main provider of data on organized violence and the oldest ongoing data collection project for civil war, with a history of almost 40 years. Its definition of armed conflict has become the global standard of how conflicts are systematically defined and studied.

# UCDP

Uppsala Conflict Data Program  
[ucdp.uu.se](https://ucdp.uu.se)

Please cite:

• UCDP Bulletin. 2021. "Enduring Deadly Violence in Ukraine: Organized violence in eastern Ukraine (1 Jan 2019 - 31 October 2021)."