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## **SOUTHEAST ASIA’S DEMOCRATIC NETWORK, FORSEA, PUBLISHES REPORT EXPOSING FRAUD AND IRREGULARITIES IN THAI ELECTIONS**

**Bangkok, Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019** - Forces of Renewal for Southeast Asia (FORSEA) has published a report authored by FORSEA co-founder by Dr Pavin Chachavalpongpun, in partnership with the Thai activist group CSI LA. The report catalogues numerous instances of election fraud and various types of irregularities observed before, during and after the March 24<sup>th</sup> election in Thailand.

The evidence presented in the report was gathered using an innovative crowdsourcing method. Over a period of 10 days around the elections, Thai citizens were encouraged to submit pictures and accounts of fraud through a purpose-built online webpage. Over this period, thousands of reports were sent from Thai citizens across the country. These reports were thoroughly analysed and checked for authenticity and accuracy. Only the most verifiably accurate submissions are included in the report.

“This groundbreaking analysis was made possible by the courage of thousands of ordinary Thai citizens who took great risks to report what clearly looks like a coordinated, meticulous attempt to disrupt the election and favour political parties close to the military junta,” said Dr Chachavalpongpun. “It is now clearer than ever that the elections were rigged. The people of Thailand and the international community must not accept this result.”

The report identifies and describes eight different types of fraud and irregularities:

1. Electoral Commission (EC) malfunctions;
2. State influence in the voting process
3. Improper ballot transportation;
4. Ballot box irregularities;
5. Vote buying;
6. Unchecked voter identification;
7. Fake and/or mistaken IDs; and
8. Various other illegal/dubious activities, such as falsified party donations.

The report’s findings give further credence to already widespread concerns among many in Thailand and in the international community regarding the fairness and transparency of the elections. The many instances of fraud it identifies point to a large-scale effort to facilitate the victory of pro-junta political forces. They further undermine the “official” elections results announced yesterday by the Electoral Commission, after several weeks’ delay. These results, unsurprisingly, gave a greater advantage to pro-junta parties than the initial exit polls.



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## About FORSEA

Forces of Renewal for Southeast Asia (FORSEA) – is an international not-for-profit organisation created by Southeast Asian democrats and rights campaigners committed to making the region more just, fair and democratic. The organisation is built on the ideal that close cooperation between pro-democracy forces in the region is needed to effectively combat dictatorship and restore democracy and human rights.

Find out more at <https://forsea.co/>

### **For questions, comments, interviews contact:**

Dr. Pavin Chachavalpongpun,

+81 90 8449 9694

[pavin@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:pavin@cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp)