



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release - Wat Phra Dhammakaya's Devotees

This statement is in reference to the *Post Today*'s news article published on 5 June 2016 about the interview with Phrarajthamnites (Luang Por Payom) who recommended cutting off resources and surrounding the temple with troops, and who accused Phrathepyanmahamuni (Luang Por Dhammajayo) of saying that Most Venerable Buddhadasa and Luang Pu Mun were reborn in an unfavorable realm.

On 6 June 2016, Wat Phra Dhammakaya devotees presented evidence at the Khlong Luang Police Station in Pathum Thani province to document the inaccuracies in the published story in order to prevent any misunderstandings by the public.

On 8 June 2016, a temple representative informed Luang Por Payom that he had received erroneous information from people with ill-intention. He then had his students scour the internet to verify the information. It was discovered that Luang Por Dhammajayo had never mentioned anything that maligned Most Venerable Buddhadasa and Luang Pu Mun in any way. Luang Por Payom then stated publicly, "I am an honorable monk." Once he realized what he said was inaccurate and damaging to Luang Por Dhammajayo and Wat Phra Dhammakaya, he apologized; he said he wasn't trying to incite the army to surround the temple as reported in the news. He only shared with the news media a conversation he had with an off-duty high ranking officer about his experience in capturing an accused group in the past.

On 10 June 2016, representatives for Wat Phra Dhammakaya's devotees brought flowers and incense to pay respect to and thank Luang Por Payom at Wat Suankaew in Nonthaburi. Luang Por Payom took responsibility for his actions when learning he was wrong and apologized, and these representatives wanted to demonstrate their admiration for the monk's actions. It was also an opportunity to seek forgiveness if they had caused him distress or woes. The atmosphere was friendly and warm, and Luang Por Payom imparted many invaluable thoughts for them to contemplate.

Today, once the truth was made clear to the public, a representative for Wat Phra Dhammakaya's devotees went to Khlong Luang Police Station to withdraw the documentation related to Luang Por Payom for the sake of harmony amongst Buddhists.

In great appreciation,

Ms. Kannika Yoosri

Deputy Spokesperson for Wat Phra Dhammakaya's Devotees

13 June 2016