



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Wat Phra Dhammakaya Press Release: 14 June 2016

Wat Phra Dhammakaya would like to inform the public regarding the Department of Special Investigation's (DSI) submission of evidence for special case no. 27/2559, pertaining to Phrathepyanmahamuni (Most Ven. Dhammajayo), to the Office of the Attorney General on 13 June 2016.

1. The evidence for this case had been previously investigated by DSI in special case no. 146/2556 and submitted to the Office of the Attorney General. DSI does not have the legal authority to use this evidence to create new case no. 27/2559. This is comparable to the Supreme Court's ruling from case no. 9/2481 and the comment of office of council of state of case no. 766/2546. The Office of the Council of State has noted that DSI's actions may be illegal.
2. The fact that DSI officials leaked the summons for Phrathepyanmahamuni to the press, who published the news publicly, before it was officially served to Phrathepyanmahamuni is unethical for an investigative official, and reflects the partiality officials have against Phrathepyanmahamuni and Wat Phra Dhammakaya.

Additionally, Pol. Lt. Col. Pakorn Suchivakul, DSI Bureau Chief asked Mr. Mano Laohavanich, the accuser who has conflict with Phrathepyanmahamuni, to join the DSI officials meeting to advise them on a way to deal with Phrathepyanmahamuni. These actions lead Wat Phra Dhammakaya's devotees to be skeptical of the actions of this team of officials.

3. On 2 June 2016, DSI issued order no. 531/2559, calling for cooperation from Most Venerable Phrathep Rattanasuti, Ecclesiastical Head of Pathum Thani; National Office of Buddhism; and Dr. Somsak Tolaksa, legal advisor to the Ecclesiastical Head of Pathum Thani, to form a committee to coordinate this lawsuit. They were given the authority to determine the course and method, and to coordinate the parties involved.
4. This committee held its first meeting at Wat Kien Ket, Pathum Thani province on 3 June 2016 and a second meeting on 6 June 2016, whereby Dr. Somsak Tolaksa was in communication with Wat Phra Dhammakaya continuously and progress was made in the negotiations. All that remains is the issue of replacing the head DSI official assigned to the case who has violated the code of ethics for an investigative official as outlined above. DSI Representative advised that a document be submitted to DSI seeking justice and a request that the head DSI official overseeing the case be replaced. The lawyer who was granted power-of-attorney privileges by Phrathepyanmahamuni

has heeded the advice already. A third follow-up committee meeting has been scheduled for 14 June 2016.

5. However, on 13 June 2016, DSI submitted charges and evidence to the Office of the Attorney General without waiting for the 14 June 2016 meeting.

Why did DSI hasten the process in an abnormal manner - both the arrest warrant and the lawsuit?
Why hasn't DSI fulfilled a single action they agreed to in the negotiation?

6. Wat Phra Dhammakaya is disappointed and has lost all confidence in DSI for failing to uphold their end of the agreement, and for disrespecting the Sangha and the National Office of Buddhism. DSI has demonstrated actions that are deceitful and untrustworthy.
7. Phrathepyanmahamuni received donations with transparency and honesty. All funds received have been allocated towards the construction of religious facilities, in accordance with the donors' wishes. Not a single baht was used for personal benefit. There is evidence of a clear money trail in financial records, because no cash was ever withdrawn, for which Anti-Money Laundering Office has conducted a thorough investigation of all financial records and submitted their findings to DSI already.

Once it became a lawsuit, there were questions regarding the source of the money that was donated. Wat Phra Dhammakaya's devotees raised emergency funds equivalent to the amount in question to aid Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative (KCUC). Afterwards, KCUC - the true party experiencing grievance - even sent the followers a letter of appreciation and withdrew all civil and criminal lawsuits. Why did DSI proceed to establish a lawsuit that serves absolutely no benefit for the cooperative?

8. Proceeding in a lawsuit against Phrathepyanmahamuni will have adverse effects on Buddhism and how donations are made to temples and organizations. The temples and organization may be liable to charges of accepting stolen property and money laundering as well.

Wat Phra Dhammakaya affirms its respect for the judicial process and asks the Office of the Attorney General to maintain integrity and impartiality as it proceeds with the law.

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