

Press Release

Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya

Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya firmly believe

Phrathepyanmahamuni (Most Venerable Dhammajayo) is innocent, for the following reasons:

1. If one conspired to engage in laundering money and receiving stolen money as alleged, the one who engages in these actions must already know that when over 10 billion baht in funds are withdrawn from the Credit Union illegally, the credit union must fall bankrupt, leading to an inevitable lawsuit. Therefore, those who conspired to engage in wrongdoing must try to conceal the money trail to ensure it could not be traced back to them; for example, secretly receiving cash, hiding it in secret locations, or finding a way to return the funds to Mr. Supachai Srisupa-aksorn.

Phrathepyanmahamuni accepted the donations openly, in front of a crowd of tens to hundreds of thousands. The donation was received via credit union cheques, which can easily be verified by the authorities. Those with criminal intent would not receive money in this foolish manner due to its obvious money trail.

The Lord Buddha once said “one’s actions reflect one’s intentions.” The action that took place illustrates Phrathepyanmahamuni receive the donations openly and honestly.

2. None of the donations received by Phrathepyanmahamuni were ever used personally—not even one single baht. And since none were returned to Mr. Supachai, this cannot be considered money laundering. All of this can be traced by examining financial records, as the money was never withdrawn, but was transferred directly to the temple and the foundation to pay for the construction of public religious facilities in accordance with the donors’ wishes. The Anti-Money Laundering Office has conducted their full investigation and found that all financial record-keeping had been carried out lawfully. This lends support to Phrathepyanmahamuni’s honest intent.

3. Phrathepyanmahamuni has been ordained as a monk for over 47 years now, and during that time, he has done nothing but good deeds. He has built temples, built Buddha statues, as well as spread Buddhism worldwide, gaining him many loyal followers globally. Because of this, his devotees strongly believe in him and have donated a cumulative amount of more than ten billion baht to his personal account. Phrathepyanmahamuni can rightfully withdraw that money for personal use at any time, but he has never withdrawn a single baht for his own personal use. Every single baht is transferred to the temple and other organizations in order to benefit the greater good.

To reiterate, why would Phrathepyanmahamuni launder money and receive stolen cash, in the amount of 300 million baht, when supporters have offered over tens of billions of baht in personal donations to him? He has the right to withdraw money from his account as he wishes, but has never done so, and has never

allocated this money for his personal use. Instead, he has always donated the entirety of these funds towards temple construction and the propagation of Buddhism.

4. Throughout the 47 plus years of his monastic life, he has practiced Dhamma in accordance with the Buddhist Vinaya; established multiple religious structures dedicated to Buddhism and the nation—valued at a total of 40 billion baht; and cultivated 4,000 Buddhist monks sworn to lifelong monkhood, along with millions of lay devotees, who have dedicated their lives to Buddhism.

Individuals with dishonest intent who ordain solely for fame or fortune would not and could not do what Phrathepyanmahamuni is doing; it is something you would have to dedicate your life to, pouring your heart and soul into.

The Lord Buddha once said: “One’s moral discipline is recognized when one lives in a community.” The personalities of individuals who live together are recognizable; you can’t hide them. The monks, lay male and female staff who have been living in the same community for decades know how Phrathepyanmahamuni is. There is no way to conceal it. If Luang Por was not truly wholesome, the monks, male and female lay staff would not have dedicated their lives to according to the teachings of the Buddha. Everyone values their life, and to sacrifice it to something must mean that the cause is truly wholesome.

For the reasons stated, the Devotees of Wat Phra Dhammakaya firmly trust in the innocence of Phrathepyanmahamuni. We plead for the media, society, and Department of Justice to sympathize with a senior monk of 72 years, who has done nothing but good deeds his whole life, and is chronically ill. Please do not harass him. Please do not expedite this process to the point where we feel like we are being persecuted or that this case is proceeding under an order. Compared to the cases of suspects charged with treason—a crime much more severe—why is DSI expediting this case more than those?

Mr. Ong-Art Thamnita
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