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Some media outlets have claimed that Phrathepyanmahamuni (Most Venerable Dhammajayo) is preparing to seek political refuge in the United States of America. In response to this, Wat Phra Dhammakaya would like to publicly respond with the following statements:

1. Phrathepyanmahamuni has no plan to leave Thailand for the following reasons:
  - i. Ven. Dhammajayo is 72 years of age and is suffering from eight different medical conditions, which prevent him from traveling long distances.
  - ii. Ven. Dhammajayo does not have a passport or a lifetime visa to the United States of America. He has been building Wat Phra Dhammakaya for more than 47 years. It was not built two or three years ago with the plans of abandoning it if a problem were to arise.
  - iii. Ven. Dhammajayo vowed to die in the temple founded by the Master Nun, Maha Ratana Upasika Chandra Khonnokyoong.
2. Ven. Dhammajayo has four chronic conditions—diabetes, acute deep vein thrombosis in the left lower extremity, chronic venous stasis ulcer, and allergies; and 4 conditions that formed the cause of his immediate treatment— extreme vertigo, loss of balance, acute back pain, and severe pain in the left lower extremity secondary to an inflammation. His medical team has advised him to rest and refrain from physical activities for at least 2 months, which is the reason why he cannot travel to the location DSI investigators appointed.
3. In the case of the medical certificate issued by Fort Phanurangsri Hospital, the physician made a house call to Wat Phra Dhammakaya in response to the request of Phrathepyanmahamuni's medical team, as the physician was a specialist in the relevant field. This house call was not against any codes of conduct. Prescribing diagnoses for patients outside hospitals are acceptable within the medical community.
4. The White House petition was created by a supporter of Wat Phra Dhammakaya who is an American citizen residing in the United States of America. Disturbed by the injustice in Thailand and the unjust treatment of Phrathepyanmahamuni, he initiated a petition to the leaders of his government.

Blessings,

Phra Sanitwong Wuttiwangso  
Director of Communications, Wat Phra Dhammakaya  
21st May 2016