



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Thailand's largest Buddhist Organisation protests unfair and misleading information about Wat Phra Dhammakaya

The Alliance of Buddhists in Thailand have expressed their deep concern at the ongoing misinformation and series of attacks by the Government's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) on Wat Phra Dhammakaya and its ailing Abbot. The barrage of unproven allegations against Thailand's biggest Buddhist temple and Luang Por Dhammajayo can only create division within the Thai Buddhist community, and harm the country's reputation as a world centre for Buddhism.

Without waiting for a decision from The Supreme Court of Thailand, the Government spokespersons from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) have issued an unsolicited statement that there is sufficient evidence to indict Ven. Dhammajayo on charges of money laundering and embezzlement. This statement deliberately ignores the many questions regarding the unsolicited donations to the temple and the generous return of funds to the victims of Khlongchan Credit Union.

Rumours have also been circulated that the ailing Abbot has left the country, which is untrue and deliberately misleading. The DSI was invited to send their medical representatives to verify the extent of Luang Por's illnesses, but chose not to do so, preferring to leave the media and the general public uncertain about the severity of the Abbot's condition.

The reasons for the many and varied attacks by the Thai Government on Wat Phra Dhammakaya and the ailing Abbot raise serious questions. Over the past 46 years, Wat Phra Dhammakaya has attracted millions of devotees in Thailand and around the world. With 96 branches in 32 countries, the Dhammakaya Foundation brings the teachings of Buddhism and Dhammakaya meditation to a world which is increasingly in search of peace and harmony.

Wat Phra Dhammakaya has grown from a small, open-air structure on a barren field to become a large complex which houses over 4,000 monks and novices, and regularly serves the spiritual needs of over 1 million lay people. Each year the Dhammakaya Foundation organises the mass ordination of 100,000 Monks from every village in Thailand.

The reasons behind this seemingly relentless pursuit of Luang Por Dhammajayo and Wat Phra Dhammakaya by the DSI are difficult to understand, but the press and the general public are entitled to ask about this discrimination and a hidden agenda.

For further information please contact our media correspondent team at media@dhammakaya.net or Twitter @DhammakayaMedia.