



*World Theravāda Buddhist Sangha Council*

December 10, 2016

H.E. General Prayut Chan-O-Cha  
Prime Minister of Thailand

Excellency,

As you may know, Wat Phra Dhammakaya, one of the largest Buddhist temples in Thailand, is currently at the center of a highly publicized case. The temple's abbot, Most Venerable Dhammajayo or Phrathepyanmahamuni, is being aggressively pursued by Thailand's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) and police force in a controversial case in which we strongly believe he is wrongfully accused.

DSI and police force have taken unjust actions against the abbot throughout the case, including issuing a search warrant to the Wat Phra Dhammakaya. There were also numerous news of thousands of armed forces are prepare to seize the temple, whereas thousands of devotees are peacefully gather there for chanting and meditation. This excessive use of force is unnecessary, as Wat Phra Dhammakaya has always been known for the promotion of peace. This provocative act and comments will lead to nothing for deeper sentimental conflicts in Thai society. We cannot comprehend how this action can happen in a country that was once regarded as the land of Buddhism. Police's attitude and actions are unjust and excessive. This will demoralize any Buddhist organization or non-profit organization that relies on donations to keep itself running.

Moreover, Thai authority also ordered DMC Channel to shut down its operation. It was based on unsubstantial claims that DMC contents caused conflicts in Thai society. DMC Channel is widely known for its non-political, non-commercial Buddhist channel. Its 14-year operation provided better understanding of Buddhist practice to practitioners of all ages worldwide. This clearly is abuse of rights for access to information.

We request for H.E. Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha, the Prime Minister of Thailand, to look into this matter and ensure the issue between DSI and Wat Phra Dhammakaya is resolved peacefully, so we can end this case in a way that upholds the reputation of both Thailand and Buddhism. We believe that you would understand how this case could damage Buddhism and Thailand if handled wrongly and respectfully request Your Excellency to mediate the situation to avoid public conflict.

Ven. Mugunuwela Anurudhha Thero,  
President