



**Statement from Wat Phra Dhammakaya  
26 February 2017 at 09:00 hrs.**

1. We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of the deceased, Mr. Anawat Tanacharoennat. We believe that he is one of the local residents who has suffered from the use of Article 44. He's most likely a Buddhist who goes to many temples. Although no one from Wat Phra Dhammakaya personally knows him and we have no records of past contributions to our temple, we will continue to examine our records. Mr. Anawat had on a shirt with the teachings of a well-known Buddhist monk named Budhadasa, and we believe that he was trying to bring attention to the harassment of Buddhism, the monastic community, and Article 44. Everyone loves his or her life, but this tragedy reflects the suffocating feeling from seeing Buddhism being destroyed. Mr. Anawat had ample of time to reflect on what he was about to do since he gave himself as much as three hours. We acknowledge his conviction, but it isn't an action that Wat Phra Dhammakaya would ever condone. Killing oneself is a grave misdeed, and we hope to never see it happen again. We adhere to the principle of peace and tranquility, the spreading of loving kindness, chanting, and meditating.

Therefore, we ask the government not to place the blame on us because we were not aware of the situation and our monks went there to pacify and talk him out of it. Our devotees will attend his funeral rites on behalf of the temple.

Moreover, this daringness of Mr. Anawat's in not being afraid to die and his dissatisfaction of the current predicament reflect the society's discontent and malady. He didn't have to declare himself to be a true Buddhist, but he merely wanted everyone to treat each other like human beings and to love one another. This should never have resulted in anyone's death. Mr. Anawat used the words: "I plead with mercy for the revocation of Article 44." He chose to sacrifice his life in order to protect what's morally right because the words 'I plead with mercy' is not meant to threaten nor is it foolish faith. We hope that his death is the only one. We offer our deepest condolences and dedicate merit to him so that will go to a favorable destination.

2. "DSI viewed the search of Wat Phra Dhammakaya like they were on a tour, rather than executing a search warrant." We want to let you know Wat Phra Dhammakaya takes DSI and state official's work very seriously. The first day of the search warrant, there were news that DSI assembled over four thousand troops consisting of DSI agents, soldiers, and police officers. The monks at Wat Phra Dhammakaya woke up at 3 am, some did not sleep the night before because

we did not know DSI's intentions, which showed us their true intentions. When the news came out, it caused our devotees to worry and lose trust in the state officials. The information we received from reporters was that the daily expense of this siege costs as high as three to five million baht per day. The first two days of search cost taxpayers as much as 10 million baht. While today, being the eleventh day, would put the estimated cost to no less than 50 million baht, a massive amount of money since the baht has decreased in value, coupled with the current economic recession. Is the use of this excessive amount of money during these times considered being ungrateful to this country and its citizens? We want to call on the citizens of Thailand to observe how the government conducts its business with taxpayers' money. The claim of DSI using the 2 days to merely tour the compound shows negligence of duty, dishonesty, and recklessness in the use of taxpayers' money, and this country. Regarding this matter, we want the people of Thailand to be the judge.

3. DSI reasoned that a third party interference created a disturbance inside Wat Phra Dhammakaya the past 10 days, but the truth is, the situation inside Wat Phra Dhammakaya has been peaceful. Monks, novices, and devotees have been chanting the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, the Lord Buddha's sermon to spread Buddhism, and meditating to audio recordings of Luangpu Wat Paknam Bhasicharoen and Luangpor Dhammajayo. Wat Phra Dhammakaya can verify that these teachings reinforces the concept of peace and nonviolence. The fact that state officials have created a blockade at gates 7 and 8, encroaching on the 2,000 rai property have caused panic and distrust amongst the devotees due to the fact that religious structures are not being properly taken care of as well as fearing for potential theft.

4. According to the press release of the prime minister, if Most Ven. Dhammajayo surrender and allow the government to manage the assets of Wat Phra Dhammakaya, Article 44 will be revoked immediately.

May we inform the prime minister that the duty of managing the temple belongs to the monks-- the abbot, vice abbot, or the assistant to the abbot. It is not the responsibility of the government or the public. And from observing yours and the government staff's performance in managing this country, we ask that you don't take on the task of managing this temple. Think of Buddhism, think of the Buddha. When you make such declarations, the devotees--the true owners of the temple who have donated their hard-earned money will absolutely not allow you to come seize their temple. Therefore, we ask you with compassion, with mercy, to not seize the temple. Think of Buddhism. Please don't seize our temple.

All of us contributed towards and offered this temple to Buddhism, not to PM Prayuth Chan-Ocha.

May the prosperity of the Dhamma prevail to all.

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