



DHAMMAKAYA FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Official Statement from the Supporters and Followers of

Wat Phra Dhammakaya

Pol. Col. Paisit Wongmuang, Director General of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), has stated in an interview with the press that he would assign physicians from the police hospital to examine the health conditions of Phrathepyanmahamuni (Most Venerable Dhammajayo). If the physicians confirm that he is in fact ill, DSI will gladly read the charges at the temple.

The supporters would like issue the following statements:

1. Had DSI been this willing from the start, the case would have been completed by now. However, past actions by DSI have led the supporters of Wat Phra Dhammakaya to question its impartiality.
2. In the past, the temple had sent letters to DSI informing it of Phrathepyanmahamuni's illness, accompanied by medical certificates from three specialists. The specialists who performed the examination had also travelled to DSI to provide further information on Ven. Phrathepyanmahamuni's medical conditions, yet DSI had refused to allow the specialists to offer their professional opinion at the DSI's meeting. The temple has asked DSI to assign a neutral physician to examine Phrathepyanmahamuni at the temple, but DSI refused and immediately sought arrest warrants from the court twice.
3. DSI made numerous statements that the medical certificate for Phrathepyanmahamuni was invalid and unacceptable. However, the Medical Council of Thailand has come out in support of the medical certificate's validity. DSI has even tried to cause problems for the physician who issued the certificate by sending DSI officials to investigate Fort Phanurangsri Hospital in Ratchaburi to determine whether there was a violation in issuing the medical certificate. This action by the DSI brought undue fears and stress to the physician who performed the examination despite fully practicing in accordance to medical ethics.
4. DSI investigators for this case have invited Mr. Mano Laohavanich, a long time adversary who has defamed Phrathepyanmahamuni, to join their meetings and advise them on how to arrest Phrathepyanmahamuni. This action has made the supporters of the temple question the impartiality of DSI investigators, positioning itself as a opposition of Phrathepyanmahamuni.
5. DSI sent a letter to the Royal Thai Police requesting 4 fully armed companies, or a battalion of 600 policemen, with helicopters. DSI has offered to be responsible for all expenses. According to

the media, DSI will be accompanying the battalion with its armoured truck. DSI is still requesting more backup from other sectors. It is as if DSI is getting ready for a civil war, recruiting thousands of troops with armoured trucks and helicopters to raid a Buddhist temple. All of this is to arrest a 72-year old ailing elderly monk--who is only a suspect, not yet a defendant in the case. This entire situation has disheartened monks nationwide, supporters and followers of Phrathepyanmahamuni, and Buddhists throughout the world. Buddhist organizations worldwide have submitted letters to the Prime Minister to protest DSI's operations. This news has spread across the globe, destroying the nation's image so much that Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-Ocha came out to ask DSI not to use violent measures.

6. On 6th October 1999, Ven. Dhammajayo had fallen ill and coughed up blood. He had a medical certificate and had asked for a postponement in seeing the investigators. However, the investigators did not believe him, so they sent two physicians from the police hospital to examine him at the temple. After the examination, the police hospital's physicians said he was fine to travel and forced him to go with the investigators immediately. The next day, Ven. Dhammajayo's conditions worsened. He was vomiting blood and had to stay at the hospital for one month, and continued his healing at the temple for another 3 months before he began to recover. No one took responsibility for his worsened condition. Furthermore, the Medical Council of Thailand was ordered to suspend the Abbot's physicians for 1 month for issuing the medical certificates. The physicians filed a lawsuit against this suspension, red case number 1175/2547, on 24th September 2004, stating that the Medical Council's decision for a suspension was unlawful and for the court to rescind the Medical Council's order. However, no one has yet taken responsibility for the misdiagnosis by the 2 police hospital physicians.
7. The actions carried out by DSI investigative agents are reminiscent of the situation that took place 17 years earlier. Therefore, supporters and followers of Wat Phra Dhammakaya are suspicious of the impartiality demonstrated by the investigative agents.
8. Special case number 27/2556 is a duplication of another special case no. 146/2556, where evidence use in this case was a facsimile of the evidence that had been used in case 146/2556. The construction of case 27/2556 was therefore illegal from the start. This is akin to the buttoning of a shirt: if the first one is in the wrong spot, the rest of the buttons will be as well. This will lead only to more problems. Supporters and followers would like to voice their perspective.

We hope that DSI will proceed with cases 27/2559 and 146/2556 with honesty and transparency, as to set an acceptable legal standard in the judicial process and good moral standard to the society.

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