

**STATEMENT:  
MEDIATION HAS CONCLUDED –  
ANANDA MARGA LEGAL CASE IN THE U.S.**

The Bylaws of Ananda Marga, Inc. (AMI) were changed improperly by the Board of Directors, in 2006. A serious breakdown in organizational discipline followed in the sector, affecting our collective unity. Attempts to resolve these administrative errors through numerous meetings and formal pleas by Ananda Marga Pracaraka Samgha (AMPS) were unsuccessful.

AMPS Central requested the bylaws be reverted back to the 1982 version. When this did not take place, AMPS Central announced the reconstitution of the AMI board with new directors, and discussions began with the former board members. Despite the talks aimed toward reconciliation, the former board members, along with others, initiated a civil suit in the Denver District Court in March 2010. A number of efforts to resume settlement discussions were made throughout the litigation. In May 2011, the Denver District Court ruled in favor of the new board members and AMPS Central, who intervened in the matter.

***MEDIATED SOLUTIONS SOUGHT***

After this decision, invitations to discuss potential solutions were exchanged between the parties. In the summer of 2012, both parties agreed to a process of alternative conflict resolution, and mutually selected an excellent professional and skilled mediator. A mediation meeting took place in September 2012 in Rockville, Maryland. This meeting was productive and resulted in a partial settlement that addressed a number of contentious issues. Both parties were satisfied with the relief provided in this partial settlement. However, key issues remained for each party.

In March 2013, a second mediation meeting took place where inroads towards a final settlement were chalked out. Since the March meeting, it became clear that a few critical matters remained unresolved. Accordingly, additional efforts towards a mediated resolution were made with a desire to carry the positive spirit and the progress generated at each of the previous mediation events. While sincere, good faith efforts over thirteen months were made by both sides, a final mediated solution was beyond reach in the end.

***IMPASSE***

AMPS Central and the Defendants in the Denver case, representing the current AMI Board of Directors, are disheartened that the final settlement goals aimed at achieving reconciliation and integration through mediation efforts could not be achieved. AMPS Central and the Defendants in the Denver case proposed a settlement that would implement the *Ananda Marga Caryácarya* (AMCC) in this Sector.

***NO FINAL SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT***

Unfortunately, a settlement was not possible due to our inability to abandon the following principles of Ananda Marga:

- Our commitment to protect the sanctity of Ananda Marga through the social codes, conduct rules, structural and organizational design, conventions, and procedural orders of AMPS as envisioned and established by Reverend Marga Guru, Shrii Shrii Anandamurti Ji and documented in the Ananda Marga scriptures, primarily AMCC.
- Our non-compromising position with respect to the order, advanced codes of conduct, and disciplinary rules for Wholetimer Sannyasin workers, their posting orders, tour

- programs and their sacred place in a hierarchical authority structure as established by Reverend Ba'ba'.
- Although the WT conduct rules are not published in the Ananda Marga scriptures, they are referred to in *AMCC*, Part Two, along with references to conduct rules common to all Margiis –
    - Observing Pañcadasha Shiila (15 Shiilas) in daily life.
    - Following directions in connection with physical, mental, spiritual and social aspects of life given in *AMCC* Parts One, Two and Three.
    - Observing uncompromising strictness and faith regarding the sanctity of Íśta, Ádarsha, the Supreme Command and the Conduct Rules.
    - Strictly adhering to the code of 16 Points.
    - In addition, there are separate conduct rules for householder ácáryas, whole-timers, local full-timers, local part-timers, táttvikas, ácáryas and avadhútas.
  - Our commitment to the empowerment of Ananda Marga adherents (Margiis) throughout the entire organization from Village to the Central through the committee and board system of ACB (of departments, sections and trades), the selecto-electoral, local congregation leadership of the Bhukti Pradhana and the Bhukti committees. Additional participation and leadership roles are available in the Upabhukti Pramukha, Gram Pramukha, Unit Secretary, and their related committees.
    - Numerous chapters in *AMCC* Part One, including Bhukti Pradhana, Formation of Boards, etc).
    - From the “Fifteen Shiilas” conduct rules – “Obedience to the structural code of discipline.” and “Sense of responsibility.”
    - 16 points from *AMCC* – Observe C.S.D.K.. (conduct rules, seminar, duty, Kiirtana)."
  - Our emphasis on organizational and structural opportunities to give focus to Margiis' service efforts, a legacy that Reverend Ba'ba' provided to all who make Ananda Marga theirs.
    - “Remember, whatever position you are in offers sufficient opportunity to work.” *AMCC*.
    - Another from *AMCC*: “The meaning of Sam'gacchadvam' (Let us move together) Mantra should be realized in life. Always remain united. Solve all problems, big or small, with unity. Consider misfortune of one, the misfortune of all, an injury to one as an injury to all.”
    - "A country can be conquered by force of arms but the mind cannot. Those who have taken to Sa'dhana to conquer the mind are true soldiers. The aim of Ananda Ma'rgiis is to conquer the Universal Mind. To achieve that, they will have to acquire the qualities of soldiers. They will have to keep especially strict vigilance on unity and order. Do not allow distinctions to crop up among Ananda Ma'rgiis. Unity should be maintained even at the risk of one's life. Do not under any circumstances allow individual interest to stand in the way of collective interest."
  - The teaching of the Reverend Ba'ba' state that there shall be only one Purodha Pramukha, one General Secretary, one Sectorial Secretary, etc.
    - “Thorns on the path cannot deter those who have assembled with the determination to march in unison. They are blowing the trumpets of victory in an effort to conquer the universe of a timid mind. O human beings march ahead – let the song of march be your only slogan.” *Ananda Vanii*, 1<sup>st</sup> January 1957.
    - “The purport of Dharma Sádhaná is to look upon every person, every object of this universe as one integral entity. To jeopardize the unity of the human race by

creating factions is not the purpose of Dharma. Those who encourage vested interests survive on the mental weaknesses of people and their dissensions, and that is why they are scared of the spread of the ideals of Dharma and exhibit their intolerance towards it in all sorts of immoral ways, such as abuse, false propaganda and lies. People must not be cowed by this, they have got to march ahead.” Extract from *Ananda Vanii*, Ánanda Púrímá 1957

- “The unity of Ananda Ma'rgiis should not be allowed to be jeopardized for any reason. Unity should be maintained even at the risk of your life.” *AMCC*

## *CONCLUSION*

Due to the lack of a final settlement agreement at this juncture, the Denver District Court ruling of Judge Michael Martinez on May 16, 2011 should be upheld. The Honorable Judge held that the civil suit had no basis according to the law, according to the codes and traditions of AMPS, and according to the positions the former board members declared prior to the attempted bylaws amendments in early 2006.

Should appellants choose to proceed with an appeal, AMPS Central and Ananda Marga, Inc., intend to defend the trial court's decision and the teachings of our Beloved Ba'ba'.

Even so, we remain open to dialog and problem-solving – as nothing is more important than protecting the treasures of Ananda Marga as outlined in *AMCC*, Part One ...

"YOUR TREASURES: Sublime ideology, universal love, and unshakeable unity among yourselves".

The spiritual mission of Ananda Marga, destined to brighten humanity, will continue despite this difficult situation. It is our prayer that Margiis in this Sector are reconciled and move forward in harmony following the path set forth by Reverend Ba'ba'.

For the Defendants and Intervenor, AMPS Central:

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Brother Dharmapala, Doug Spires  
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For further information, please visit: [www.ampsnys.org/2010Denver](http://www.ampsnys.org/2010Denver)