



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 3

## COUNCILMEMBER KSHAMA SAWANT

Monday June 24, 2019

Dear Steve and Beau Harer, Glenn and Debra Koehler, and Detente Management;

I am writing to urge you to renew the leases of Mergitu Argo, Mouhamed Tall, Modou Ndiaye, and Lenh Vong. You recently served the four of them with 20-day notices to terminate their tenancy, with no cause or reason given. In Seattle, this would not be legal, because of our Just Cause Eviction Ordinance, and I will be asking the King County Council to extend similar protections to renters throughout the county.

I know Mergitu Argo to be a longstanding and highly-respected community organizer. She is currently employed by the City of Seattle, doing outreach for Seattle's Democracy Voucher program. Before that, she worked for years both for One America and SEIU 775, defending the rights of people facing abuse and discrimination.

Ms. Argo has been a tenant in your building on and off for 14 years and has been a model tenant during that time. Similarly, Mr. Tall, Mr. Ndiae and Ms. Vong have been excellent tenants, using their own money to do repairs on their apartments over the years. These are their homes, and you have not even had the courtesy to give them a reason for forcing them to find another place to live with less than one-month notice.

I will be hosting these tenants, and community members, at my Seattle City Council Renters Rights committee meeting on Tuesday, June 25 at 2:00pm. You are invited to join us at the table for the discussion, and if you are willing to withdraw the notices to terminate tenancy and renew their leases, that news will be a welcome addition to the discussion.

Please renew their leases and allow them to stay in their homes.

Thank you,

Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant