

Form 29: Sample Letter from Tenant Group to Landlord

_____ TENANT ASSOCIATION
c/o _____ (name of organization and phone number)

December 5, 2008

Landlord's Name
Landlord's Address

Dear _____:

We are residents of _____ (*city/ town*) who make our homes in a building, which you purchased almost two years ago, _____ (*address*). Some of us have recently received very large rent increases of up to \$300. With the help of _____ (*organization that is helping tenants*), we have formed a tenant association.

We know you are in business to make maximum profit, but these increases are excessive. They would force us out of our homes and disrupt our families. There must be some kind of balance between the goal of maximum profit in real estate and the needs of ordinary people to protect our homes and our communities. The "fair" rent is simply not the "market" rent.

Many of us have lived in this building for a long time, some for almost 30 years. _____ (*city/ town*) is our community. We have connections, churches, and family here.

We would like to set up negotiations between yourself and representatives of our tenant association to try to find the fair balance. Many tenant associations in the Boston have met with owners and negotiated multi-year agreements that gave a fair return to owners, provided security to resident families, and increased neighborhood stability. We seek to make such an agreement here.

You can contact our tenant association by calling the number listed below.

Sincerely,

(*tenant signatures*)

cc. *Names of City Councilors*
Mayor
State Senator
State Representative
Local Religious Leader
Local Community Leader