Al-Hawi Family: Jawad Didn’t Suffer From Any Health Problems. We Will Continue Our Complaint Against The Ministry of Interior

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Today, 18 March 2014, is the funeral of Jawad al-Hawi in Sitra. According to his family, he died on Sunday due to suffocation from tear gas shot by security forces.

The family denied that Jawad suffered from any health problems, including a heart condition, following the statement of Adnan Fakhro, member of the Special Investigation Unit at the public prosecution, that the preliminary forensic report indicated an intense heart disease that caused the death. However, the family continued their complaint accusing the Ministry of Interior of causing his death due to the extensive use of tear gas in residential areas.

Jawad al-Hawi inhaled a lot of tear gas while security forces dispersed a protest in Sitra on 26 March. Eyewitnesses said that tear gas was extensively used following a protest on the anniversary of 16 March 2011 as well.

The head of Monitoring and Documentation in the BCHR confirmed that the al-Hawi family submitted an official complaint against the Ministry of Interior. He said that “the family believes criminal suspicion exists and believes that inhaling tear gas resulted in the deterioration of his health.”

Fakhro said that the unit launched an investigation into the death of the 48 year old citizen from Sitra to reveal the circumstances of his death, to confirm whether there is criminal suspicion over his death or not.

On Monday at dawn, the Sitra police station was notified the deceased’s brother that Jawad had passed out and had been taken to the Sitra health center, where a medical team attempted to revive him. He was then transferred by ambulance to Salmaniya Medical Complex where he passed away.

The Unit’s forensic doctor took the needed samples to test and identify the cause of death. The Unit also ordered the deceased’s medical file to be presented to the doctor as well as his clothes to be given to
the criminal forensic laboratory to test if he had remnants or anything that could help with the investigation.

The unit also called the complainant to ask him about the circumstances around Jawad’s death and requested a judicial police investigation.