



GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards 2025

Entry Form

To submit an entry to the GPA Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards, please complete and email this form to secretariat@globalprivacyassembly.org **no later than 16 June 2025**.

Note: GPA member authorities can submit as many entries as they wish, but a separate form should be used for each different entry, submitted by the deadline above.

Languages: The GPA documentation Rule 6.2¹ applies.

1. CONTACT DETAILS FOR THIS ENTRY

Privacy/Data Protection Authority:	Israeli Privacy Protection Authority	
Person completing this form:	Sharon	Shemesh Azarya
	<i>First name</i>	<i>Last name</i>
Job title:	Head of International Affairs	
Email address:	sharonaz@justice.gov.il	

2. ELIGIBILITY

By submitting this entry, I confirm that (*please tick all boxes to confirm*):

- ☒ The Authority is a member of the Global Privacy Assembly
- ☒ The initiative described in this entry was undertaken before 16 June 2025.
- ☒ I am aware that the information in the entry (other than the contact details in 1(a) above) will be publicised by the GPA Secretariat.

3. CATEGORIES

Please indicate which category you wish to enter.

*Please tick **one**; please use a separate form for each category you wish to enter:*

- ☐ Education and Public Awareness
- ☐ Accountability
- ☒ Dispute Resolution and Enforcement
- ☐ Innovation
- ☒ People's Choice

¹ [GPA Rules and Procedures](#), Rule 6.2 'Assembly documents':

Without prejudice to section 4.2, Assembly documents, including accreditation and observer applications may be submitted in English or in another language. In the latter case, the documents shall be accompanied by an English version. Members with the ability and the resources to do so are encouraged to translate proposed resolutions and other Assembly documents such as the Assembly Rules and Procedures.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

a. Please provide a brief summary of the initiative (no more than 75 words)

Criminal Investigation conducted by the Israeli PPA against the Mayor of an Israeli City.

b. Please provide a full description of the initiative (no more than 350 words)

A criminal investigation conducted by the Israeli PPA against the Mayor of an Israeli City. According to the findings of the PPA's investigation, the Mayor misused the municipality's resident database to promote his political campaign for re-election. This was done in various ways and with the assistance of municipal employees and the campaign staff, in a manner that repeatedly violated the privacy of the city's residents and involved the use of their personal data.

According to the indictment filed following the PPA's investigation (and a parallel police investigation for other felonies), the offenses included the following events, which took place over several years:

Under the mayor's direction, personal information and political opinions of city residents were recorded in the municipal database;

The database, some of which is legally transferred from the Population Authority to the municipality for city management purposes, was passed on to the campaign headquarters in order to broaden the information about voters and assist the mayor in his re-election campaign;

The mayor's campaign headquarters contracted with a software company and provided it with the enhanced database of city residents to develop software that would utilize all the information during the municipal elections.

As a result, databases were created that merged information provided to the municipality for managing city affairs with information collected by the campaign headquarters, and this data was repeatedly used in the course of election campaigns.

Following his indictment, which included other felonies as well, a special statutory committee decided on the mayor's suspension from his office, for one year. The criminal court proceedings are currently still ongoing.

c. Please explain why you think the initiative deserves to be recognised by an award
(no more than 200 words)

The Israeli Privacy Protection Authority (PPA) demonstrated independence in enforcement in a landmark case involving the mayor of a northern medium-sized Israeli city. The PPA uncovered that the mayor systematically misused the municipality's resident database—originally provided by the Population Authority for public service purposes—to promote his political campaign over several elections.

Under the mayor's direction, personal data about residents were recorded and unlawfully transferred to the campaign staff and a private software company. These enhanced databases were used to target voters, merging official records with campaign materials in clear violation of the Israeli Privacy Protection Law.

Despite the political sensitivity, the PPA conducted an independent and thorough criminal investigation that led to indictments, criminal sanctions, and the mayor's suspension from office. This case illustrates the PPA's role as a fearless and impartial enforcer, capable of holding public officials accountable for privacy violations.

This case exemplifies the PPA's unwavering commitment to upholding data protection law, and reinforcing accountability through effective enforcement. It stands as a powerful model for privacy protection authorities worldwide and is a compelling candidate for recognition by the Global Privacy Assembly.

d. Please include a photograph or image, if you wish *(This will be published with your entry on the GPA website. The image can be pasted into the box below, be sent as an attachment or a link may be provided)*



e. Please provide the most relevant link on the authority's website to the initiative, if applicable *(The website content does not need to be in English)*

Information about the investigation on the PPA's website (Hebrew):

https://www.gov.il/he/pages/criminal_enforcement_files#%D7%A7%D7%A8%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%9E%D7%95%D7%A6%D7%A7%D7%99%D7%9F

f. Please provide any other relevant links that help explain the initiative or its impact or success *(e.g. links to news reports or articles):*

The full decision by the statutory committee that decided to suspended the mayor from office, following his indictment (Hebrew):

<https://haipo.co.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/%D7%94%D7%97%D7%9C%D7%98%D7%94-%D7%94%D7%95%D7%95%D7%A2%D7%93%D7%94-%D7%9C%D7%94%D7%A9%D7%A2%D7%99%D7%99%D7%AA-%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%A9%D7%99-%D7%A8%D7%A9%D7%95%D7%99%D7%95%D7%AA-%D7%9E%D7%A8-%D7%97%D7%99%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%A6%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%99-20.6.23.pdf>

The criminal court proceedings are currently still ongoing.