

THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
AND
CEU JEWISH STUDIES PROJECT

cordially invite you to a lecture by

Joshua Rubenstein

Amnesty International USA

**Ilya Ehrenburg: The War, the Holocaust, and the Fate
of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee**

Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, Nazi shooting units succeeded in killing two and a half million Jews in German-occupied Soviet territory. Most of the victims were murdered in open-air massacres, carried out in the very towns and cities where they had been living. Soon after the German invasion, Stalin created five anti-fascist committees to promote the unexpected Soviet alliance with the Western democracies. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was among them. Its leaders included many famous Soviet Jewish intellectuals, including the writer and journalist Ilya Ehrenburg. Faced with the horrors of the massacres, members of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee responded to the war not only as Soviet patriots, but as Jews as well. Ehrenburg, in particular, did all he could to write about Jewish suffering in the Soviet press. Together with the front-line journalist Vasily Grossman, Ehrenburg compiled material for "The Black Book," a unique anthology of documents and interviews with survivors who were found soon after liberation. Sponsored by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, "The Black Book" was meant to highlight Jewish suffering under the Germans and to counteract growing antisemitism within the Soviet Union. Its publication was banned by the regime after the war; the manuscript was even used as evidence against leaders of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee at their trial in 1952.

**Wednesday, February 22 at 6 p.m.
in CEU Auditorium
Budapest, 1051 Nádor utca 9.**

Joshua Rubenstein is the Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and a long-time Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He has been a staff member of Amnesty International since 1975. His current responsibilities include organizing Amnesty's grassroots membership in New England, New York, and New Jersey. He is the author of *Soviet Dissidents, Their Struggle for Human Rights and Tangled Loyalties*, *The Life and Times of Ilya Ehrenburg*, a biography of the controversial Soviet-Jewish writer and journalist. He is the co-editor of *Stalin's Secret Pogrom: The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee*. Mr. Rubenstein received a National Jewish Book Award in the category of East European Studies for *Stalin's Secret Pogrom*. He is the co-editor of *The KGB File of Andrei Sakharov*. He also helped to edit and translate *The Unknown Black Book, the Holocaust in the German-Occupied Soviet Territories*, which first came out in January 2008 and was re-issued in paperback in 2010. Mr. Rubenstein's latest book is *Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary's Life* for the Jewish Lives series at Yale University Press; it was published in October 2011.



A reception will follow