

## **Personal Interview: James Torczyner**

### **Interview Transcript**

I personally, and some of my friends, were alarmed that how come we don't know about it [the situation of Soviet Jews]? What are the rabbonim [rabbis] doing about it? And we asked them, and they said, “shhh, we're smuggling siddurs [Jewish prayer books], don't rock the boat, this is better, don't bring attention to it.” Those are very very clear instructions. Given those messages, which I respected, but also knowing viscerally that no one spoke when my father was in Dachau or when my grandmother was murdered in Auschwitz, how can rabbis be telling me, “don't talk about it?”