

**Supplementary Fig. 1** GST-HrcU and derivatives are present in the soluble fractions of *E. coli* lysates.

*E. coli* cells containing GST-HrcU<sub>255-357</sub>, GST-HrcU and GST-HrcU<sub>N264A</sub>, respectively, were resuspended in PBS and lysed with a French Press. After centrifugation the pellet (P) containing insoluble proteins and cell debris was resuspended in 1 ml PBS. Total cell extracts (TE) and equal amounts of the resuspended pellet and the supernatant (SN) which contains the soluble proteins were analyzed by immunoblotting using a GST-specific antibody. Asterisks indicate full-length GST fusion proteins, additional signals correspond to degradation products.