

## Supporting Information

### A new turn-on fluorescent probe towards hypochlorite in living cells

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## Preparation of ROS/RNS

### Preparation of $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

The stock  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  solution was purchased from J&K Chemical Co. (30 wt %). The concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was measured by iodometric titration.

### Preparation of $\bullet\text{OH}$

Hydroxyl radical was generated by Fenton reaction<sup>1</sup>. To prepare  $\bullet\text{OH}$  solution, ferrous chloride was added in the presence of 10 equiv. of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

### Preparation of $^1\text{O}_2$

Singlet oxygen was generated from the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{MoO}_4^{2-}$  system in alkaline media<sup>2</sup>.

### Preparation of $\text{t-BuOO}\bullet$

$\text{t-BuOO}\bullet$  was generated from TBHP. The concentration of TBHP was determined by the titration of  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$ .

### Preparation of $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$

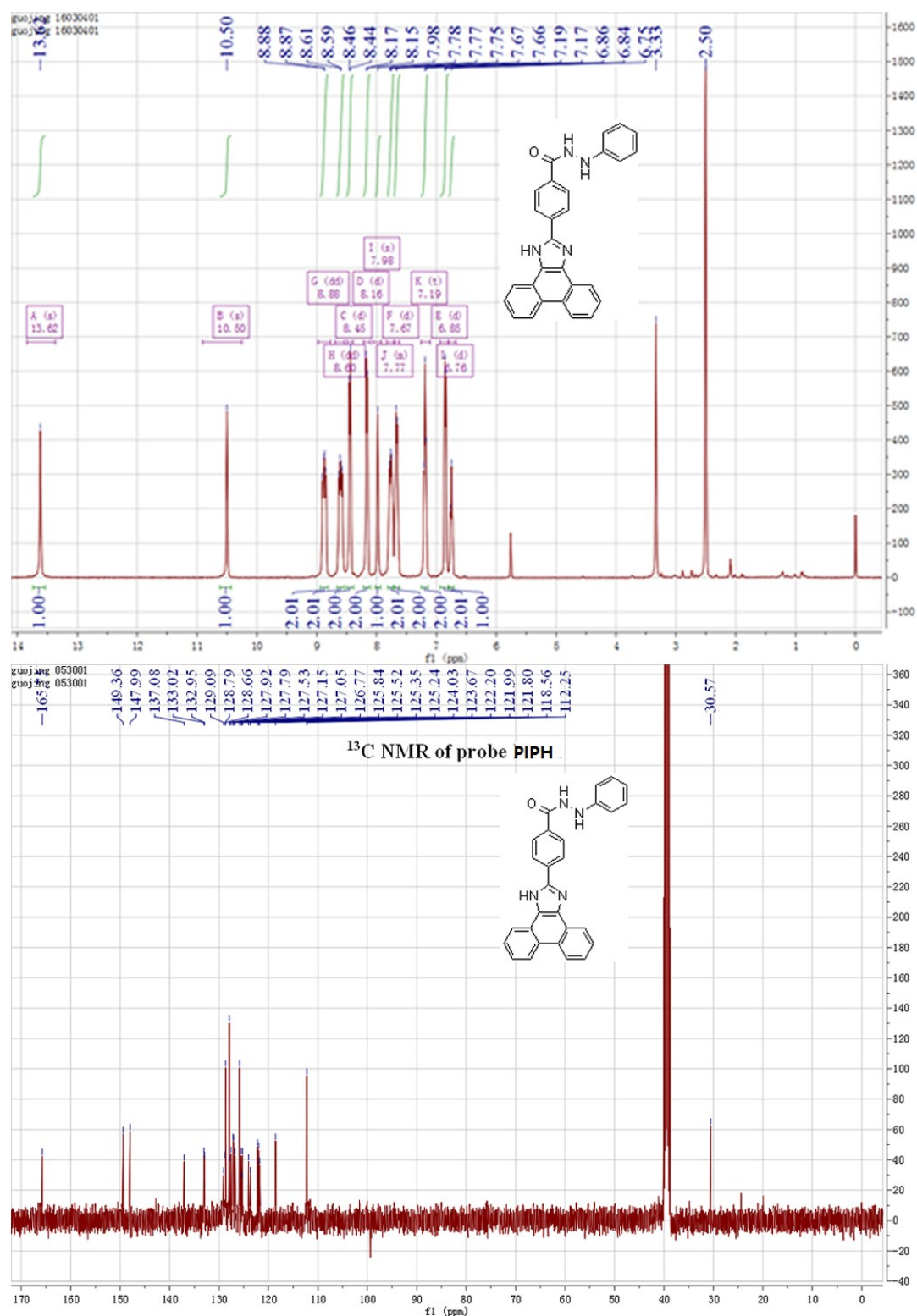
Superoxide radical was generated from potassium superoxide, the radical could stably exist in 18-crown-6 ether and  $\text{Me}_2\text{SO}$  solutions<sup>3</sup>.

### Preparation of NO

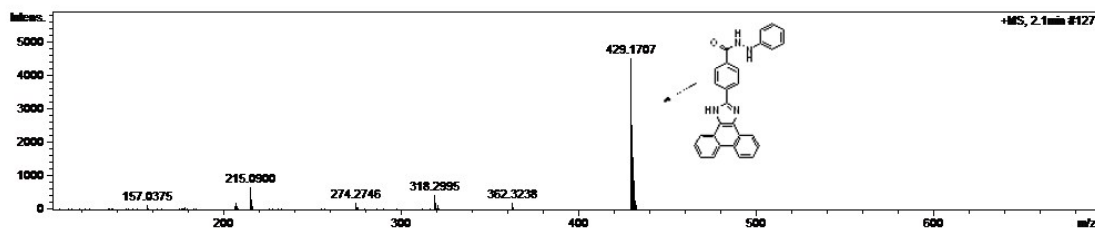
Nitric oxide was generated from SNP (Sodium Nitroferricyanide (III) Dihydrate)<sup>4</sup>.

### Preparation of HOCl

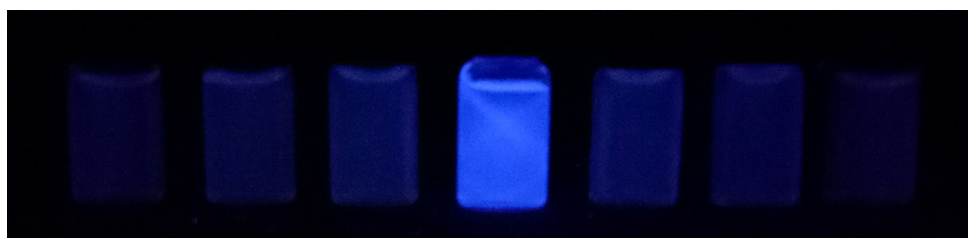
The stock NaClO solution was purchased from J&K Chemical Co. (10 wt% Calculated as free chlorine). The concentration of  $\text{OCl}^-$  was measured by the iodometric titration.



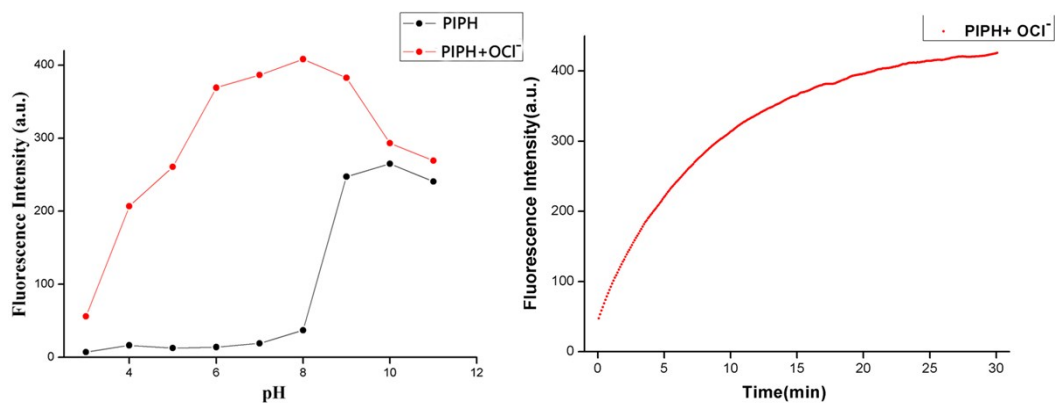
**Figure S1** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of probe PIPH in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO; <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of the probe in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO.



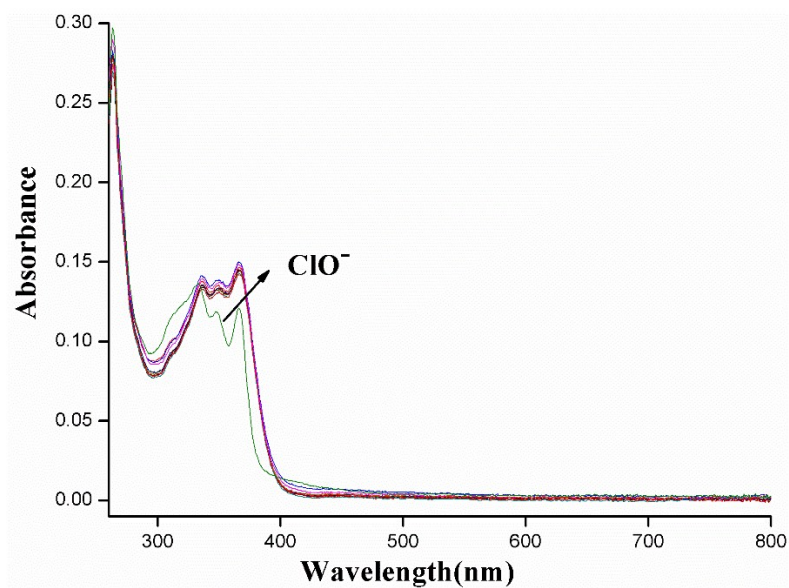
**Figure S2** High-resolution mass spectra of PIPH.



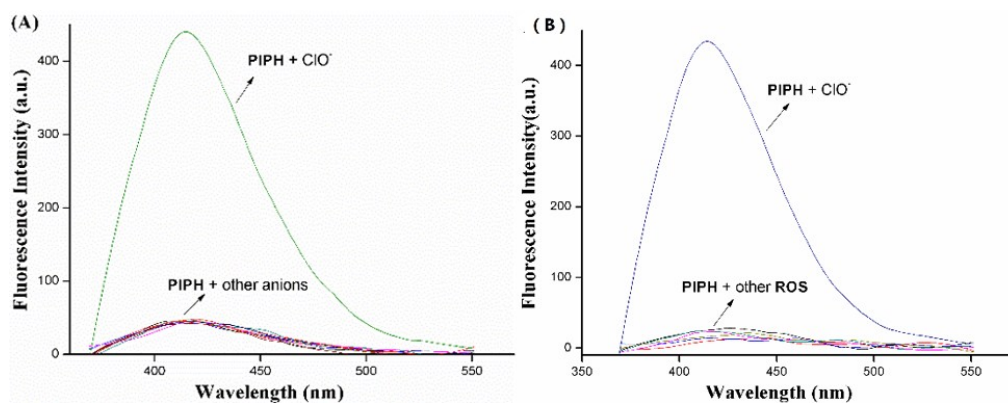
**Figure S3** Fluorescence intensity of the PIPH (5 μM) treated with OCl<sup>-</sup> (20.0 equiv.) (the 4<sup>th</sup> vial) and other other ROS/RNS (200.0 equiv.) (including •OH, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>, OCl<sup>-</sup>, O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>, t-BuOO• and NO) under illumination with a 365 nm UV lamp.



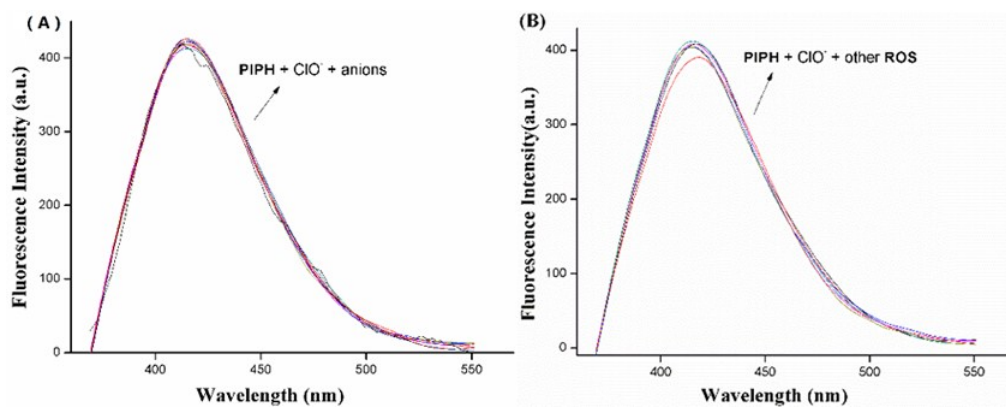
**Figure S4** 0.2 M NaOH aqueous solution was added to 200 mL mixed-acid system (0.06 M HAc - 0.06 M HCl - 0.06 H<sub>3</sub>BO<sub>3</sub>) dropwise to prepare different pH level of the aqueous solution. The maximum intensity of probe PIPH in DMF-water (1:1, v/v) with or without OCl<sup>-</sup> was measured (left); Time-dependent fluorescence intensity (415 nm) changes of probe (5 μM) in the presence of OCl<sup>-</sup> (20 equiv.) (λ<sub>ex</sub> = 330 nm) .



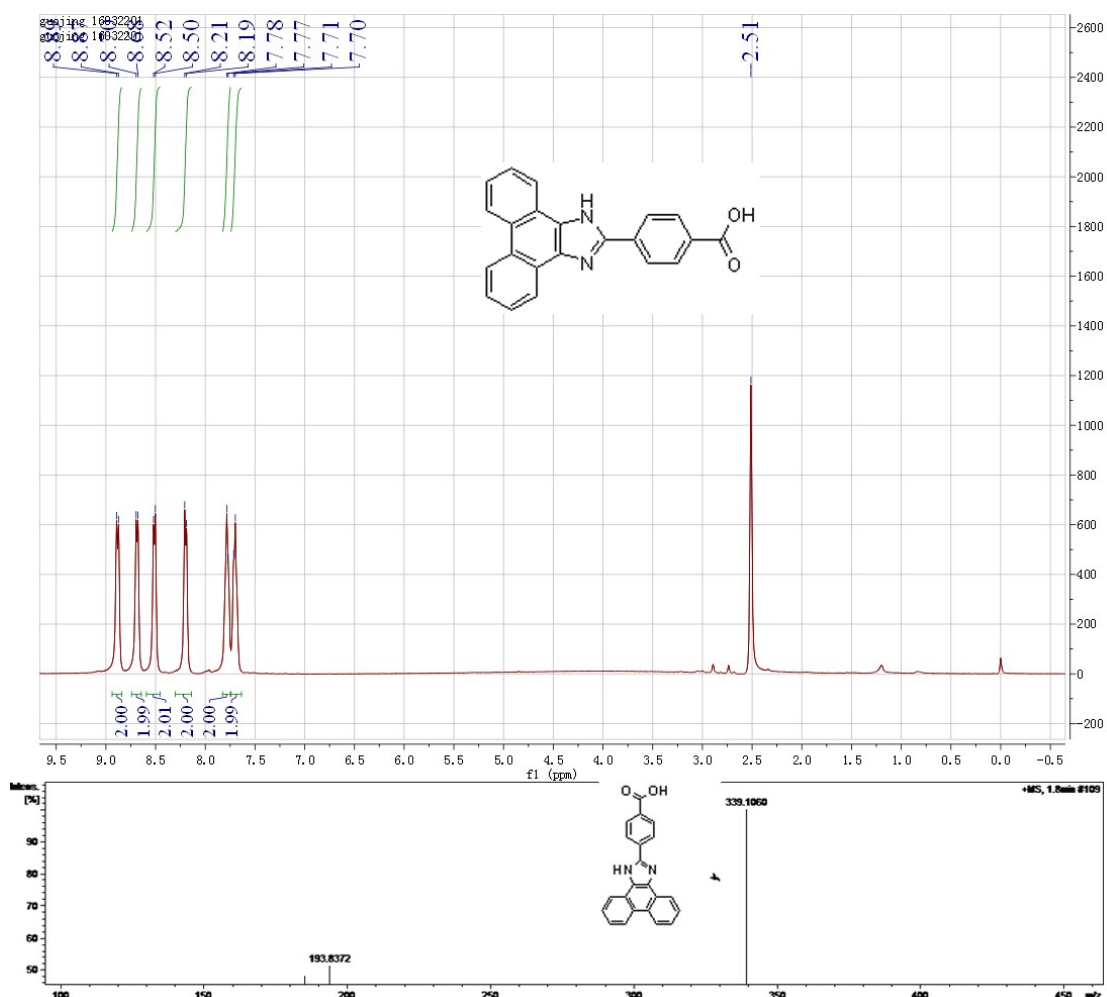
**Figure S5** Absorption spectra of PIPH (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of  $\text{OCl}^-$  (20.0 equiv.), and other anions (200.0 equiv.) (including  $\text{AcO}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{SCN}^-$ ,  $\text{N}_3^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ )



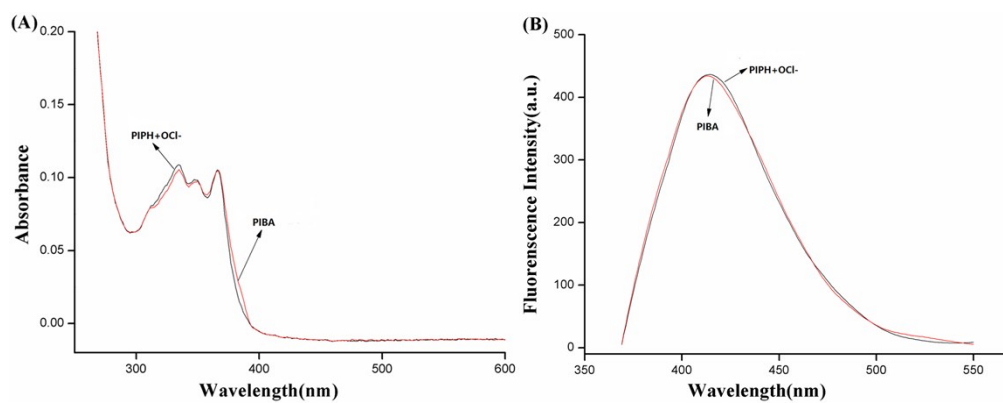
**Figure S6 a)** Fluorescence spectra of PIPH (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in the presence of  $\text{OCl}^-$  (20.0 equiv.) and other anions (200.0 equiv.) (including  $\text{AcO}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{SCN}^-$ ,  $\text{N}_3^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) **b)** Fluorescence spectra of the sensor (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) towards  $\text{OCl}^-$  (20.0 equiv.) and other ROS/RNS (200.0 equiv.) (including  $\bullet\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $^1\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ ,  $\text{t-BuOO}\bullet$  and  $\text{NO}$ )



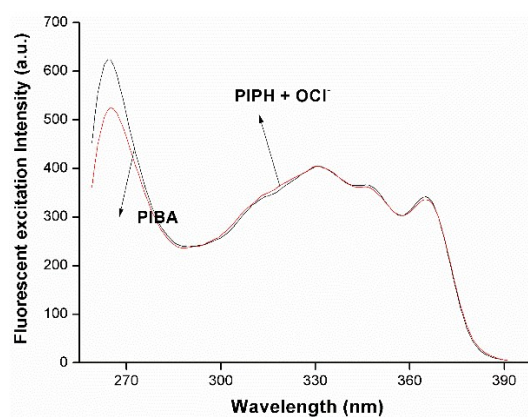
**Figure S7** **a)** Fluorescence spectra of the probe (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in presence of Cys (20.0 equiv.) and other anions ( $\text{AcO}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{F}^-$ ,  $\text{SCN}^-$ ,  $\text{N}_3^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ) **b)** Fluorescence spectra of the sensor (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) towards  $\text{OCl}^-$  (20.0 equiv.) in addition of other ROS/RNS ( $\bullet\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $^1\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ ,  $t\text{-BuOO}\bullet$  and  $\text{NO}$ )



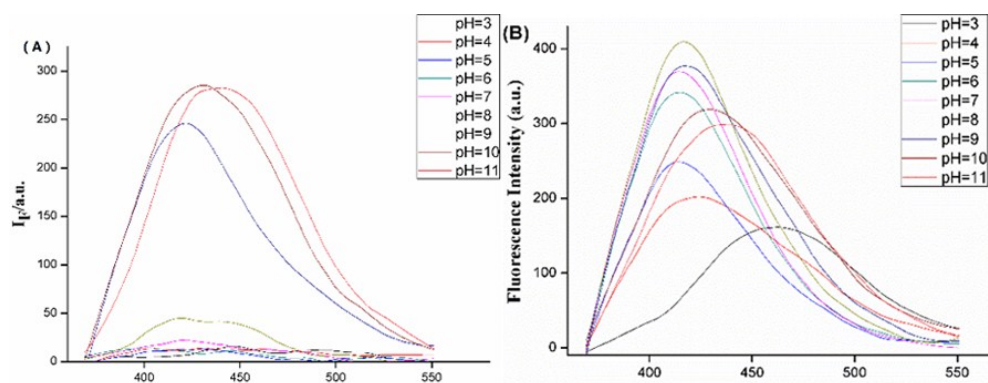
**Figure S8**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of probe PIPH treated with  $\text{OCl}^-$  in  $\text{d}_6\text{-DMSO}$ . High-resolution mass spectra of the product.



**Figure S9** UV-Vis absorption and fluorescence emission spectra of PIPH treated with OCl<sup>-</sup> (20.0 equiv.) and PIBA.



**Figure S10** Fluorescence excitation spectra of PIPH treated with OCl<sup>-</sup> (20.0 equiv.) and PIBA ( $\lambda_{em}=415$  nm, slits: 2.5nm/2.5nm).



**Figure S11** Fluorescence intensity of PIPH at different pH level without (a) or with OCl<sup>-</sup> (20.0 equiv.) (b)



**Table 1** Electron transition configurations, excitation energies, and oscillator strengths ( $f$ ) for main absorption band of **PIPH** and **PIBA**. The experimental data is shown for comparison.

|             | State                 | Major contrib. <sup>a</sup> | Energy(nm/eV) | $f$    | Exp(nm) |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| <b>PIPH</b> | $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ | H $\rightarrow$ L (98.0%)   | 380/3.27      | 1.1925 | 370     |
|             | $S_0 \rightarrow S_2$ | H-1 $\rightarrow$ L (97.2%) | 333/3.72      | 0.0025 | 310     |
|             | $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ | L $\rightarrow$ H (98.3%)   | 554/2.24      | 0.7244 | -       |
| <b>PIBA</b> | $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ | H $\rightarrow$ L (98.3%)   | 393/3.16      | 1.1264 | 405     |
|             | $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ | L $\rightarrow$ H (98.8%)   | 452/2.74      | 1.3320 | 415     |

<sup>a</sup> 'H' means HOMO and 'L' means LUMO

## Notes and references

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