**Electronic Supplementary data For** 

## A sensitive and selective red fluorescent probe for imaging of

## cysteine in living cells and animals

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Fig. S1 Normalized excitation spectrum (blue,  $\lambda_{em} = 638$  nm) and emission spectrum (red,  $\lambda_{ex} = 556$  nm) of 5  $\mu$ M RCys in the presence of 100  $\mu$ M Cys in PBS (5% methanol, pH = 7.4)



**Fig. S2** Normalized fluorescence spectrum of 5  $\mu$ M **Rho** (blue) and 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** + 100  $\mu$ M Cys (red) under excitation at 556 nm in PBS (5% MeOH, pH = 7.4).



Fig. S3 HRMS assay of the reaction products of RCys with Cys.



**Fig. S4** Absorption spectra of 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** in presence of various species in PBS buffer (20 mM, 5% methanol, pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S5** Time-dependent fluorescence spectra and intensities at 638 nm of 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** in presence of 1 mM GSH (A, B) and 100  $\mu$ M Hcy (C, D) under excitation at 580 nm in PBS (20 mM, 5% methanol, pH = 7.4).



**Fig. S6** (A) Fluorescence spectra of 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** at various pH. (B) Fluorescence spectra of 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** in presence of 100  $\mu$ M Cys at various pH. (C) Fluorescence intensity at 638 nm of 5  $\mu$ M **RCys** in absence and presence of 100  $\mu$ M Cys at various pH.  $\lambda_{ex} = 580$  nm.



Fig. S7 Survivability of the HeLa cells after treatment with various concentrations of RCys.



Fig. S8 <sup>1</sup>H NMR data (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of Rho



Fig. S9 <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of Rho



Fig. S10 HPLC-MS data of Rho



Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H NMR data (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of RCys



Fig. S12 <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of RCys





Fig. S13 HPLC-MS data of RCys.