## **Supporting information**

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Figure S1: HR-MS spectra of probe 1.



Figure S2: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of probe 1.



Figure S3: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of probe 1.



Figure S4: Absorbance spectra of the probe with other anions in DMSO.



Figure S5: Interference study of probe 1 for CN<sup>-</sup> ion in presence of other anions.



Figure S6: Absorbance spectra of probe 1 ( $10^{-5}$  M) with CN<sup>-</sup> ( $10^{-4}$  M) in 100% aqueous solution.



Figure S7: Overlaid absorption spectra of Probe 1 ( $10^{-5}$  M) with CN<sup>-</sup> ( $10^{-4}$  M) in (8:2) H<sub>2</sub>O:DMSO solvent.



**Figure S8:** (a) Detection limit and (b) binding constant plot of the probe with  $CN^{-}$  in (8:2) H<sub>2</sub>O:DMSO solvent.



Figure S9: Overlaid absorption spectra of Probe 1 ( $10^{-5}$  M) with NH<sub>3</sub> ( $10^{-4}$  M) in (8:2) H<sub>2</sub>O:DMSO solvent.



Figure S10: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectral changes of the probe in presence of ammonia in DMSO-d6.



Figure S11: HR-MS spectra of the probe after addition of CN<sup>-</sup>.



Figure S12: HR-MS spectra of the probe after addition of NH<sub>3</sub>.



**Figure S13:** Solid state absorption spectra of the Probe@starch-PVA matrix before and after treatment with CN<sup>-</sup> Solution.

