## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Iron(III)-salen complexes with less DNA cleavage activities exhibit more efficient apoptosis in MCF7 cells

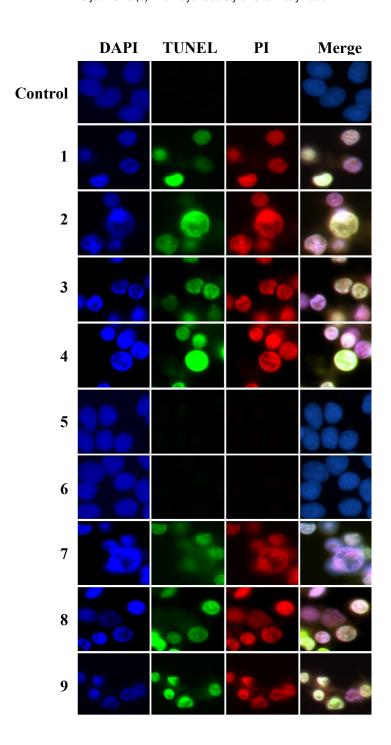
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**Fig. S1**. TUNEL (terminal dUTP nicked end labeling) assay. MCF7 cells were treated with 20 μM DON for 24 to 96 hrs, subjected to terminal nicked end labeling using fluorescent dUTP. The result shown here is at 48 hrs post treatment. Green speckles represent apoptotic cells with fragmented nuclei. DAPI and propidium iodide (PI) staining were performed to visualize nucleus of all and dead cells, respectively.

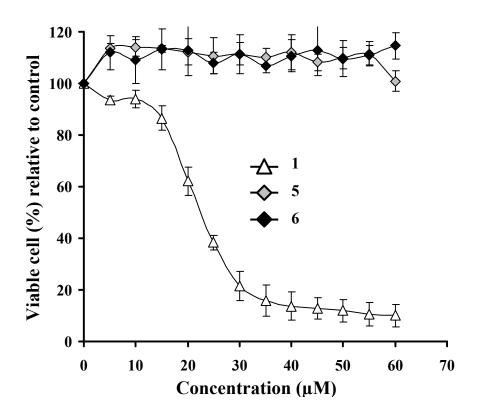


Fig. S2. Cytotoxicity (IC<sub>50</sub>) measurements for compds. 1, 5 and 6. Approximately 10,000 MCF7 cells (in 96 well microtiter plate) were treated with varying concentrations (0.05 to 60  $\mu$ M) of metallo-salens for 96 hrs and the viable cells were quantified using MTT assay. The percent viable cells (relative to control DMSO treated) were plotted against concentrations for each compound.