TREICHVILLE, ABIDJAN, CÔTE D’IVOIRE—Adjanou dancers, smeared with kaolin clay and bearing branches protesting the Republican Guard. “Adjanou” is the Baulé name for the rite of female genital power, which the Abidji and Adioukrou call “Egbiki.” Here the women effect the rite as a public rebuke and curse against violations of the moral order (see chapter 6). Source: http://www.radiosun.fr/sun-news/3760-abidjan-manifestation-des-femmes-danseuses-adjanou-violemment-dispersees (accessed November 25, 2011; no longer available).

GRAND-BASSAM, CÔTE D’IVOIRE—Statue commemorating Women’s March of 1949 (for discussion, see chapter 7). Photo by Laura Grillo.
ABIDJAN, CÔTE D’IVOIRE—In April 2011 women demonstrated to condemn the killings of seven women during a peaceful International Women’s Day march. The poignant placard reads, “[President] Gbagbo—It’s a woman who gave you birth. You have no heart” (for discussion, see chapter 6). Photographer SIA KAMBOU/AFP/Getty Images.

Sahuyé, Côte d’Ivoire, 2010—Portrait of Kamenan Adjoba, one of the women who perform Egbiki, the ritual deployment of FGP at the time of Dipri to trap witches and chase away evil and death (see chapter 1). Photo by Laura Grillo.

Nigeria, 2009—Angry women in Emure Ekiti use rite of FGP to protest. Among the Yoruba, it is said that the power of the Mothers is greater than that of the gods (see chapter 1). Jacob Olupona relayed to the author that when a Yoruba woman crouches in the position of childbirth to curse, as depicted here, it is a threat so mighty that it calls for immediate repentance or doom (private communication, March 2013). Source: http://dailyindependentnig.com/2015/03/women-protest-naked-ekiti (accessed July 19, 2015; no longer available).
Togo, 2013—Togolese women deploy FGP to demand the release of detained prisoners in front of the National Security headquarters in Lomé. This still from a video shows the furious, indignant Togolese women effecting their curse on government authorities for having caused the death of an imprisoned opposition leader (see chapter 3.) Source: Extract from YouTube post: Louis Kouevi, Indignées et Furieuses les Femmes du CST, Torse Nu, hurlent “Attention Faure, Libere Nos Enfants,” May 2013, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_WsxURdKZ4.