

## Diamond buyers may face criminal charges

Foreigners who bought "blood diamonds" from Congo could be charged with complicity in war crimes and genocide, the chief prosecutor of the world criminal court said Tuesday. Luis Moreno Ocampo of the International Criminal Court, based at The Hague, Netherlands, said crimes linked to the civil war in the central African nation that killed around 3 million people may have been committed as far away as the USA and Canada. "If they received diamonds and knew that the people delivering them were getting them because of genocide, then they could well be part of the crime," he said.

Rough diamonds from illegitimate sources, dubbed "blood" or "conflict" diamonds, are used to fund wars, mostly in Africa. Moreno Ocampo said he expects an investigation into possible war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in Congo to start next year. He said he's gathering information from prosecutors in the USA, Canada, Britain, Russia, Finland and Zimbabwe. Hong Kong is included, too.

