

Maradona Plays for Peace in Colombia



Bogota, April 11 (teleSUR-RHC) One day after a march for peace drew millions to Colombia's streets, a match for peace drew some of the world's most famous soccer stars to the pitch.

Diego Maradona, among other Latin American soccer stars, was in Colombia on Friday playing in the peace match in support of the peace process between Colombia's government and the guerrillas the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Maradona played for Argentina in four World Cups, helping them to glory in 1986 with his famous left footed ball skills, and almost 30 years later, he has done the same for Colombia.

Maradona said prior to the game that he wanted to score "a goal for peace," and he did just that. His team won 2-1, with the second goal scored by Colombian-Argentine Sergio Alejandro Galvan Rey. Colombia's fragile peace process has been put in jeopardy several times in its two-and-a-half-year run. Its aims include a permanent bilateral cease-fire between the armed rebels and government troops; something that many believe should not happen.

Some of the peace process's opponents are victims of FARC violence, others are backers of the perpetrators of a large proportion of the violence: paramilitary groups owned and run by large landholders and Colombian elites.

Colombia's armed conflict has left nearly five million displaced and 600,000 dead over the past half century.

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