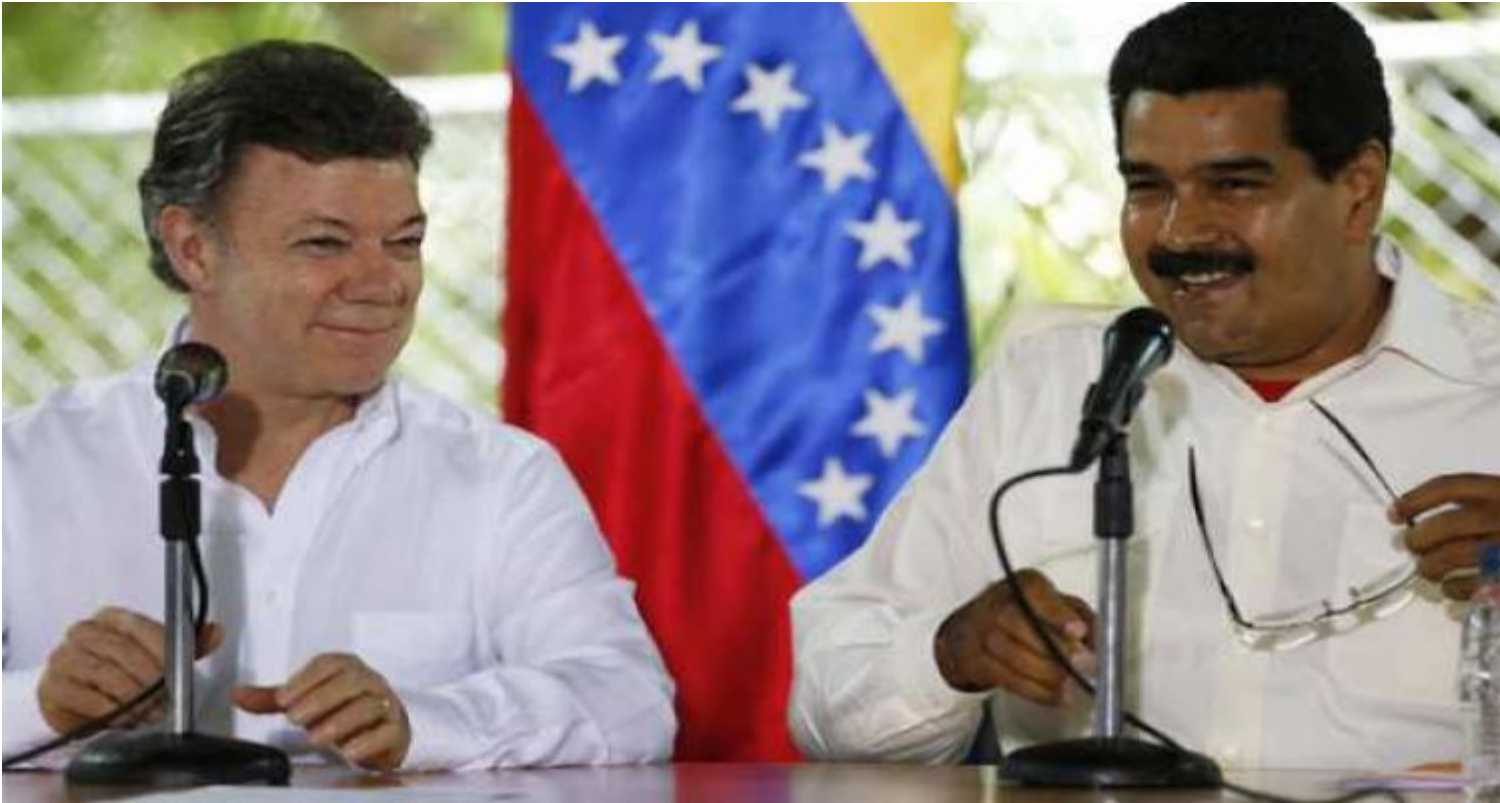


# *Venezuelan President Says Peace in Colombia Closer Than Ever*

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Cartagena de Indias, August 2 (RHC)-- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro reiterated on Friday his country's willingness to collaborate with the peace process underway in Colombia between the government and the FARC rebels.

During the installation of the Bi-national Cabinet in the Caribbean city of Cartagena de Indias, Maduro said that the peace talks between the Government and the FARC rebels have entered their final stage and they require our best efforts to materialize an agreement.

Meanwhile, his Colombian counterpart Juan Manuel Santos thanked Venezuelans, especially Maduro, for their support to the process of dialogue with the rebels, which initiated in Havana, Cuba, in November 19, 2012.

Santos said "It is a decisive moment, I would say that in this final stage, we need your support even more; you have been present since the start of negotiations and will continue with us."

The two presidents will hold a private meeting to discuss four memorandums of understanding and three draft agreements on which the working groups from both countries worked during the week.

Then they will hold a plenary meeting with their respective ministers and later a joint declaration is expected on signed agreements in the field of security, public order, border security, peace, trade,

infrastructure and even initiatives for mining and energy projects.

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