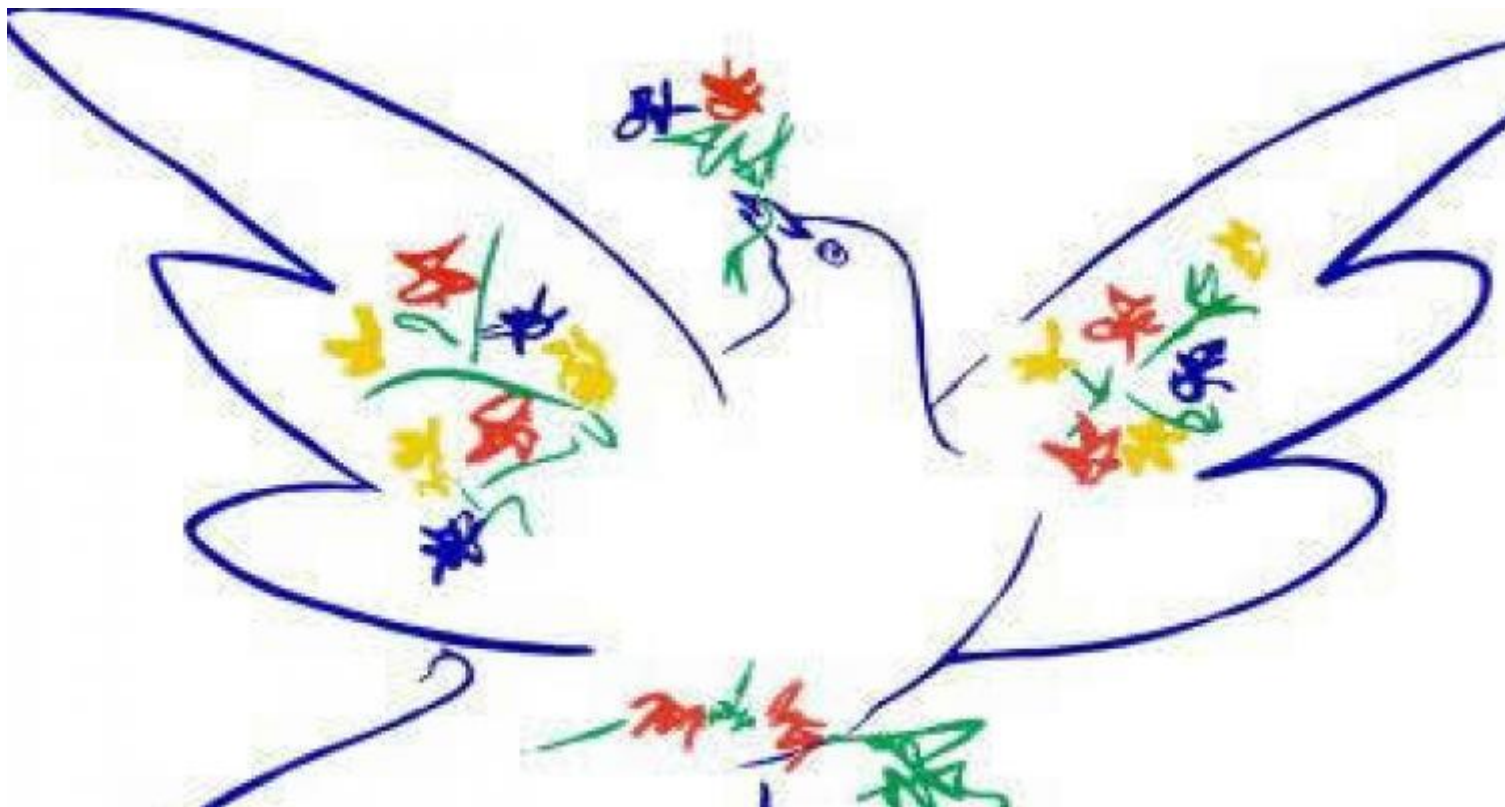


Sixty Colombian Artists Release Peace Album



Bogota, September 18 (EFE-RHC) --Sixty Colombian musical artists, including Carlos Vives, Juanes and Andres Cepeda, have released the song "A Step Toward Peace," as part of the I Can campaign that aims to end the decades-long armed conflict in the country.

Vives and producer Ivan Benavides took their inspiration from 1985's "We Are the World," written by Lionel Richie and Michael Jackson and produced by Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian.

The project's goal, Benavides told Efe, is to convey to Colombians the notion that peace "is more than the signing of agreements between the government and the illegal armed groups, although now it seems as if peace belongs to others and is faraway."

The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, are holding peace talks in Havana.

"To recover peace and to rebuild in peace the process must come from the civil society, and in this effort we all should participate, artists, the private sector, the Church and the parties in conflict," Benavides said.

He brought in performers ranging in age from 16 to 91 and representing a broad range of styles. The song

has shades of pop, urban music, folk and vallenato.

"With this array of artists we were able to show Colombia's diversity because well-managed differences enrich us all and we find that there are more things that unite us than separate us," Benavides said.

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