
Messi's father buried in private family funeral near Rosario



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ROSARIO, Argentina, Aug. 10— Jorge Messi, father of Argentine football star Lionel Messi, was laid to rest Sunday in a private family ceremony in Rosario, Argentine media reported.

The 68-year-old was buried at El Prado cemetery on the outskirts of Rosario in Santa Fe Province, with Lionel Messi, his wife Antonela Roccuzzo and other close relatives attending under tight security.

The family maintained strict privacy during the funeral, while journalists, police and Messi supporters gathered outside the cemetery to pay their respects. Fans brought flowers, gifts and messages for Jorge Messi, who played an important role in his son's life and football career and also served as his manager.

The family has not disclosed the cause of his death. Argentine newspaper Clarin reported that Jorge Messi had been undergoing cancer treatment and received medical care at a hospital for several months.

Meanwhile, Lionel Messi's childhood home in Rosario has become an informal memorial, with supporters leaving flowers, banners, letters and other tributes.

The modest two-story house, located about 300 kilometers north of Buenos Aires, was also decorated with Argentine flags and messages of support for the football star.