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Story script

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE.

Story Headline: South Sudanese refugee Anjelina Nadai Lohalith selected for Refugee Olympic Team at Olympic Games Rio 2016

Date: 3 June 2016

Place: Nairobi, Kenya

STORY SCRIPT

South Sudanese refugee Anjelina Nadai Lohalith has been selected together with nine fellow refugees to be part of the Refugee Olympic Team (ROT) at the Olympic Games Rio 2016. The composition of the team was officially announced by the IOC today.

The 21 year-old left her home country when she was just eight years old. She will now represent the ROT which will join the other teams of the 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competing in Rio. The team was created by the IOC Executive Board in March as a symbol of hope for refugees worldwide.

Lohalith, whose family are in still in South Sudan, competes in the 1500m.

Her talent was spotted by the Tegla Loroupe Foundation after the 21 year-old produced some promising results in the 10km and various other races.

Refugee athletes had to reach specific sporting standards and have official refugee status verified by the United Nations (UN) to be in contention to be part of the ROT – the first of its kind. They will march with the Olympic flag immediately before host nation Brazil at the Opening Ceremony and will have their own welcoming ceremony in the Olympic Village.

With her place at Rio 2016 secured, Lohalith hopes to make the most of the opportunity provided by the IOC.



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She said: “Going to Rio, it might enable me to meet different people, interact with them and learn many skills.

“I’ll see many places I’ve never been before and I might succeed in some way, I might earn some money to at least improve the life of my family.”

Lohalith will be part of a refugee team made up of athletes from across the world, something the middle-distance runner sees as an opportunity to inspire others.

“In Olympics it will inspire the other refugees because wherever they are they are not just the other people, they are like all of us,” she said.

“They might also get that encouragement that they can compete in some way because wherever they are they can be looked down on as a refugee but they might see they have that character and ability to be better at things all over the world wherever they are.”

The Games of the XXXI Olympiad will be held from 5 to 21 August 2016. Approximately 10,500 athletes from more than 200 countries will compete in 28 sports, comprising 98 medal events.