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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 Paulo Amotun Lokoro selected for Refugee Olympic Team at Olympic Games Rio 2016

**Date:** 3 June 2016

**Place:** Nairobi, Kenya

### **STORY SCRIPT**

South Sudanese refugee Paulo Amotun Lokoro 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.

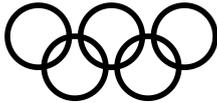
The 24 year-old will now represent the ROT - which will join the other teams of the 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competing in Rio. The team was created by the IOC Executive Board in March as a symbol of hope for refugees worldwide.

Ahead of competing at Rio 2016, Lokoro is aware of the impact representing refugees at the Olympic Games could have on the world.

“You know there, you meet many people there, you are going to run with the world. You meet with the refugees, not asylum that is a refugee somewhere.

“If all of us going there you meet together with refugees and then you compete. So people that are watching us in the world. They say these are the refugees.”

Having fled his home country 10 years ago, the 1500m runner arrived at the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya to escape the war in South Sudan.



While in Kakuma Lokoro went to school and took part in many sports. In 2015 the Tegla Loroupe Foundation came to Kakuma and organized athletics trials. Lokoro participated and performed well enough to join the Foundation. He has been training there ever since.

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.

Lokoro is determined to make the most of the opportunity given him by the IOC and the ROT.

He said: “My dream, I want to break the record of the world. I want to win the gold, yes in gold is how you win the race, if I win the medal or a gold, it's my dream. I wish I will go and win the gold.”

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.