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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 Rose Nathike Lokonyen selected for Refugee Olympic Team at Olympic Games Rio 2016

**Date:** 3 June 2016

**Place:** Nairobi, Kenya

### **STORY SCRIPT**

Fourteen years after leaving her home country, South Sudanese refugee Rose Nathike Lokonyen 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.

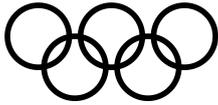
The 800m runner will represent the ROT - which will join the other teams of the 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) competing in Rio. The team was created by the IOC Executive Board in March as a symbol of hope for refugees worldwide.

Lokonyen spent 13 years in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya having fled from soldiers in her home country.

Her parents are still in South Sudan whilst her four siblings are living in the camp in Kakuma. She hopes that her inclusion in the ROT will inspire her family and refugees across the world.

“My dream is when I went I just want to help my parents and siblings, then after that help also some of my fellow refugees as well.”

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.

Lokonyen placed second in a running competition in the refugee camp despite running barefoot, and the 23 year-old is amazed at the prospect of being called an Olympic athlete.

“I will be very happy to hold the refugee flag because this is where I started my life and where I saw other people. Hopefully we can come together as one team even from different nationalities and help us interact with people from across the world from all different countries.”

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.