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STORY SCRIPT:

German-based Syrian refugee Wael Shrub will represent the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in karate at Tokyo 2020.

Wael was a member of the Syrian National Karate team and competed in the 2010 World Championship, but in 2015 had to flee the war-torn country. He made a difficult journey to Germany that lasted 30 days.

The karateka returned to his sport a year later and achieved an impressive fifth place in the German National Championships in 2018. His German-language skills are improving and he “thanks all the people that have helped him reach this stage.”

Wael, one of 56 refugee athletes currently supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Refugee Athlete Programme, says: “I want to get an honourable result in the Olympics to prove to all the world that refugees can achieve things despite the difficulties and obstacles.”

The 29-member IOC Refugee Olympic team (EOR)* initiative at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 is a continuation of the IOC’s commitment to play its part in addressing the global refugee crisis, and another opportunity to continue to convey the message of solidarity and hope to millions of refugees and internally displaced athletes around the world.

*The IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in Tokyo under the French acronym EOR which stands for Equipe Olympique des Réfugiés.

SHOTLIST:
00:02 Wide shot of Wael Shueb strength testing karate moves
00:08 Close up shot of Wael
00:12 Wide shot of Wael kicking
00:17 Wide shot of Wael jumping to his feet on the mat
00:21 SOUNDBITE: Wael Shueb, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (Kata) (German Language).
Q. How did moving to Germany change your life?
"Germany has changed my sport to my life, so I learned the language through sport, got to know a lot of people, friends. I also got my training education through sport and also through sport and I stand. Here now the first three years were not that easy, but already over now. Well, I started my future with karate and now it's still going on."

00:53 Wael climbing down into the press up position before jumping to his feet

01:03 SOUNDBITE: Wael Shueb, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (Kata) (German Language).
Q. How can sport change your life?
"Okay, so generally I can say that when someone took refuge for a reason, there was always something negative about it, and then showing them sport, you can change a lot, so the aggressiveness, being angry goes away through sport, you can also learn so much through sport. So your social contacts, having friends, build friendships."

01:38 Wael jumping to his feet and running on the spot

01:45 SOUNDBITE: Wael Shueb, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (Kata) (German Language).
Q. Why is a Refugee Olympic Team important?
"And for me as a member of refugee team, I think is very, very important. I'm not just doing this for one country or my country, but for a large group in the world who have come from different countries and we got this! Maybe I have to say I got through a lot of negative experiences or had negative circumstances and yes, we try to show the others that this group is part of something bigger, and we can do this well. I can also do something, if there is an opportunity, if there is help, then everything is feasible."

02:34 Wide shot of Wael twisting his shoulders
02:39 Close up shot of Wael twisting his shoulders

02:44 SOUNDBITE: Wael Shueb, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (Kata) (German Language).
Q. Was it always a dream for you to participate in the Olympic Games?
"as a hope or as a wish that was karate for me, but to be part of the Olympic Games? Wow... Yes, but I never thought that I would get into this position or into this situation to train karate in Germany. To participate in the Olympic Games. It was more than a dream. It's not just like that, so now I have the opportunity. So karate is part of the Olympic Games for the first time and in Japan I am part of it myself, this is not only a dream for me, not only for me personally, but for many karatekas in the world."

03:35 Wael listening to his coach
03:40 Wael punching towards the camera lens
03:46 Wael bowing to camera

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