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Story script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Swiss-based Syrian cyclist Ahmad Badreddin Wais picked for IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020

DATE: 8 June 2021

LOCATION: Switzerland

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria

LANGUAGE: English

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: <http://iocnewsroom.com>

STORY SCRIPT:

Syrian refugee Ahmad Badreddin Wais, a cyclist now based in Switzerland, will represent the IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020.

Badreddin is a professional road cyclist who has competed in multiple UCI Road World Championships - now he gets a chance to compete at Olympic level in Tokyo.

He was the most successful junior cyclist in Syria having taken it up at the age of 14. But in 2014 he was forced to flee the war in Syria, and escaped to Switzerland, where he initially stayed with a friend and his family. He had to acclimatise to freezing conditions to train, as well as adjusting to his new life.

“Sport has helped me a lot. It will be helpful for all the refugees in the world, and their psychology,” says Badreddin, who hopes to study sports science. “It can bring a lot, whether a swimmer or a cyclist, it’s not easy to begin from zero. Sport gives you the energy to be ready for all this.”

Badreddin is one of one of 56 refugee athletes currently supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Refugee Athletes programme.

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.

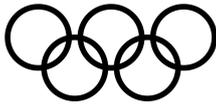
**The IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in Tokyo under the French acronym EOR which stands for Equipe Olympique des Réfugiés.*

SHOTLIST:

00:02 Wide shot of Badreddin Wais preparing his bike for training

00:08 Badreddin clipping his water bottle to his bike

00:12 Close up of Badreddin face pan to his shirt badge ‘Refugee Athlete Scholarship Holder’



00:17 The crank of Badreddin's bike turning
00:22 Badreddin's hands working on his bikes handlebars
00:26 Badreddin walking towards camera with his bike

00:31 SOUNDBITE: Badreddin Wais, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Cycling (English Language).

Q. What does it mean to you to be part of the Refugee Olympic Team?

"For me as a refugee athlete team to be in the Olympic Games, it's something grateful to show all these people. If you lose something or you had something before, I think every athlete they have something difficult story, but not the same as if you lost your country, you lose your family or whatever. So for me it means a lot to be with the Refugee Olympic Team in Tokyo."

01:00 Badreddin putting on his helmet and glasses
01:09 Close up of Badreddin tightening his shoes
01:14 Wide shot of Badreddin climbing aboard his bike
01:20 Following Badreddin from behind as he cycles away

01:29 SOUNDBITE: Badreddin Wais, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Cycling (English Language).

Q. Why did you leave your home country of Syria?

"In 2014 when the war was more and more incredible to stay there to be a safe with all the family and friends. And actually I lose many friends the same age like me, in the University and the team. So it was only the way to go out to be far away from this war."

02:01 Tracking shot of Badreddin road riding
02:07 Badreddin rides past the camera
02:13 Tracking shot pans up the bike to Badreddin
02:20 wide shot of Badreddin cycling

02:24 SOUNDBITE: Badreddin Wais, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Cycling (English Language).

Q. How can sport help Refugees?

"For sure that Sports it will be helpful for all the refugee, not only for refugee for all the people in the world because it's a good community to have a contact with a new people to move your body to be active for your psychology to, to be active and to forget what's happened. I mean, not only for refugee."

02:45 Badreddin cycles past an old Swiss house

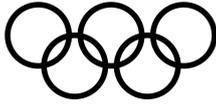
02:52 SOUNDBITE: Badreddin Wais, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Cycling (English Language).

Q. What are your dreams?

"Two dreams? There are a lot of dreams but the goals is clear to be the best athlete in the world. I would like to be as a refugee athlete, in the best athletes in the world, to show in this kind of sport of cycling if you also have difficult situations behind, you can also be strong and be in the front."

03:21 Car passes Badreddin as camera follows him
03:30 Badreddin turns left on the road and out of camera view

-- ENDS --



Story script and Shot log

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