



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## Story script and Shot log

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:** Syrian refugee Sanda Aldass to compete in Judo for IOC Refugee Olympic Team at Tokyo 2020

**DATE:** 8 June 2021

**LOCATION:** Netherlands

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**LANGUAGE:** English

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

### STORY SCRIPT:

Dutch-based Judoka Sanda Aldass has been included in the IOC Refugee Olympic Team that will be part of the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Originally from the Syrian capital Damascus, Sanda was forced to flee her war-torn country through Turkey to the Netherlands, later joined by her husband and son.

She was invited by the International Judo Federation to join their support programme for Refugee athletes, and will now compete on the Olympic stage as one of 56 athletes supported by the IOC Refugee Athlete Scholarship programme.

"It is a dream come true," says Sanda. "I cannot compete for my country, and I also cannot compete for the Netherlands. I'm so glad the IOC and International Judo Federation have solved this problem because now we can follow our dreams. It is more than a huge honour for me."

Sanda's two other children were born in the Netherlands and she has balanced motherhood with training:

"Sport is my life," she says. "I am glad to be representing refugees all over the world."

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.

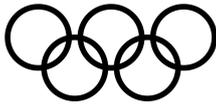
*\*The IOC Refugee Olympic Team will compete in Tokyo under the French acronym EOR which stands for Equipe Olympique des Réfugiés.*

### SHOTLIST:

00:02 Sanda Aldass jogging to warm up

00:07 Sanda crawling along the mat to warm up

00:11 Sanda warming up with training partner



00:15 Sanda on mat moves into grappling with her coach

**00:28 SOUNDBITE: Sanda Aldass, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Judo-57kg (English Language).**

**Q. What does it mean to you to compete at the Games?**

*"It's a dream coming true you know, I cannot participate for my country. I also cannot participate for the Netherlands, so glad that the IOC and the International Judo Federation could have solved this problem because now we can play for the Refugee Olympic Team itself and then follow our dreams. You know, you cannot just stop because you don't have a country to present at the Olympics."*

00:39 overlaid close up of Sanda tying her belt

01:03 Wide shot of Sanda throwing her coach over her shoulder

01:08 Wide shot of Sanda being thrown to the mat by her training partner

**01:16 SOUNDBITE: Sanda Aldass, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Judo-57kg (English Language).**

**Q. What does it mean to you to represent the Refugee Olympic Team?**

*"I'm just honored and glad that I'm representing refugees all over the world. Of course, it will be nice to represent each and every sports person in the world. But all the time refugees have special conditions. And to be the one who is representing them it's more than a huge big honor for me."*

01:36 Sanda standing waiting to fight

01:41 Wide shot of Sanda fighting her coach

01:50 Wide shot of Sanda grappling with her coach on the mat

**01:57 SOUNDBITE: Sanda Aldass, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Judo-57kg (English Language).**

**Q. How will competing in the Games change your life?**

*"People actually here in this country respect refugees so much, but to have a refugee who may be participating in the Olympic Games, then everyone will look at you differently. Everyone will salute, you will be happy to know you and we're happy like now we can fit more in the society. Not being looked at only as refugees."*

02:23 Sanda forcing her coach to submit on the mat

**02:33 SOUNDBITE: Sanda Aldass, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Judo-57kg (English Language).**

**Q. How important is sport to your life?**

*"Sport is my life. I did it for a long time, so it's literally all of my life, not part of my life."*

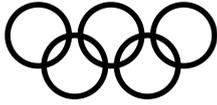
02:46 Sanda and her training partner bow to their coach

02:50 Wide shot of Sanda, her coach and training partners sitting on the mat talking

02:54 Close up of Sanda

-- ENDS --

© Copyright International Olympic Committee 2021. This content is the exclusive property of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). IOC-VNRs are for bona fide news reporting purposes only and all rights required for their production have been cleared. Terms and Conditions of the [IOC Newsroom](#) and [olympics.com](#) apply.



## Story script and Shot log

---

For more information, please contact the IOC Media Relations Team: Tel: +41 21 621 6000, email: [pressoffice@olympic.org](mailto:pressoffice@olympic.org), or visit our web site at [www.olympics.com](http://www.olympics.com)