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STORY HEADLINE: Canada-based Iranian Hamoon Derafshipour included in IOC Refugee Olympic Team to compete in Karate at Tokyo 2020

DATE: 8 June 2021
LOCATION: Canada
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iran
LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:
Iranian refugee Hamoon Derafshipour will compete for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in Tokyo 2020 and Samira Malekipour, his wife and coach, will be alongside him.

Hamoon and Samira have settled in Canada after leaving Iran, and will fulfill a dream of being part of an Olympics together. “We are so happy Canada gave this opportunity for us.”

He has one many medals in international competition, including bronze at the 2018 Karate World Championships.

One of 56 refugee athletes supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Refugee Athletes programme, Hamoon is following Samira into coaching too, after taking delivery jobs and working in an automotive company while trying to settle in Canada. The couple stopped working to concentrate fully on preparing for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Hamoon has been preparing mentally by watching Olympic competitions, for what he says is the “biggest event in 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 Hamoon Derafshipour running towards the camera in the park
00:07 Tracking shot of Hamoon running in the park
00:12 Hamoon standing on a bridge in the park
00:17 Close up of Hamoon on the bridge
00:22 Wide shot of Hamoon walking into the Karate gym space
00:31 Close of orange belt being tied

00:36 SOUNDBITE: Hamoon Derafshipour, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (English Language).
Q. How did life for you change in Canada when Covid came?
“Two years ago, less than two years ago we immigrated to Canada and I started coaching in martial arts. It wasn’t my first job and after the Covid came, I started some other jobs, General jobs. Sometimes, I did delivery jobs, I just keep going. I did it because as a man, I have some rules in my life as an athlete and as a husband for my wife.”

01:16 Various Hamoon warming up and stretching

01:36 SOUNDBITE: Hamoon Derafshipour, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (English Language).
Q. Describe your life in Canada?
“I never give up. A couple of times I miss my jobs but when we work in Canada we’re so proud of ourselves because our life right now is as a newcomer to Canada and we are so happy because Canada gave this chance to us, this opportunity for us was amazing and we are so happy to be living in Canada.”

02:06 Wide shot of Hamoon hitting a pad
02:12 Close up of the pad
02:17 Hamoon putting pads on his feet and shin
02:24 Wide shot of Hamoon hitting his coach

02:34 SOUNDBITE: Hamoon Derafshipour, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Karate (English Language).
Q. Are you nervous going into the Games?
“Of course, everyone will have stress because the Olympics is the biggest event in the world but I try only watching movies and Olympic competitions and analysing my competition, my partners in the Olympics, to be ready for the Olympics.”

02:58 Wide shot of Hamoon fighting practice with his coach

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