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STORY HEADLINE: Venezuelan Refugee boxer Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez Picked for IOC Refugee Olympic Team

DATE: 8 June 2021
LOCATION: Trinidad and Tobago
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Venezuela
LANGUAGE: English
Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:
Venezuelan refugee Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, now based in Trinidad and Tobago, will box for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team at Tokyo 2020.

Born in the capital Caracas, Eldric is passionate about knowledge and learning, but after school decided to concentrate on boxing rather than going to university, a decision that paid off with a place in the national team.

However, a humanitarian crisis and increase in violence in Venezuela led to Eldric and his girlfriend leaving to find a safer place to live. He has now been joined in Trinidad and Tobago by his father, who is his boxing coach, and has trained hard for a place in the Olympics.

Eldric fights in the -75 kg category, and is one of 56 athletes supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Refugee Athlete Scholarship programme. He will fulfill a dream by boxing in the Olympics in Tokyo.

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 Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez walking into his training facility
00:11 Eldric taking his shirt off
00:16 Wide shot of Eldric lifting a large tyre

00:19 SOUNDBITE: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. How does it feel to be a member of the Refugee Olympic Team?
“When I got the approval to be in the program I felt I was back on my path, what I do. I feel alive again.”

00:29 Close up shot of Eldric pick up free weights
00:32 Wide shot of Eldric lifting free weights to camera
00:35 Head shot of Eldric lifting free weights to camera

00:41 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. Who will you be competing for?
“Not only for me as I say it will be a bigger purpose for me, for you for he, for everybody in the world.”

00:50 Eldric warming up with a bar
00:55 Mid shot of Eldric light weights
01:00 Close up headshot of Eldric lifting dumbells
01:05 Wide shot of Eldric Rope training

01:09 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. What does competing mean for you?
“I hope, I could be a sign of hope for them.”

01:14 Close up shot of Eldric rope training

01:18 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. Did you think that you would one day compete at an Olympic Games?
“I always had in my mind, there wasn’t a day that i didn’t think I’m going to the Olympics.”

01:22 Eldric tying up his hands

01:28 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. What has it taken to get where you are today?
“When I was mixing concrete I was thinking how can that help me in my boxing career? When I was cutting grass I was thinking ‘how can that help me in my boxing career?’”

01:36 Wide shot of Eldric skipping
01:42 Close up of Eldric feet skipping

01:47 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. When did you realise that you had a talent for boxing?
“My first National Championship when I represented Caracas, my city, I won. I became the national Champion of Venezuela. I was about fifteen years old.”

02:00 Close up of Eldric hitting a punching bag

02:11 SOUNDbite: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. When did you start boxing?
“There is still a boxing gym there, near to my house, there was a group of children that were interested in boxing, ten of us.”
02:22 Eldric hitting pads held by his coach

02:32 SOUNDBYTE: Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Boxing (English Language).
Q. What is your message to other refugees?
“Have discipline to wake up, go and train, push yourself in the training, that is my biggest challenge, that the big challenge against me. That is my biggest challenge right now.”

02:42 Eldric boxing against his coach holding pads
02:49 Eldric standing looking to camera

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