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Story script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Sudanese 800 metre runner Rose Nathike Likonyen retains her place on the IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020

STORY HEADLINE: DATE: 8 June 2021

LOCATION: Nairobi, Kenya

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Sudan

LANGUAGE: English

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

STORY SCRIPT:

Rose Nathike Likonyen fled her South Sudanese homeland for Kenya aged just eight. Now she will compete in a second consecutive Olympic appearance for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team Tokyo 2020.

It was at Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp her ability was discovered, including finishing second in a 10 kilometre race, but her talent was developed at the 800 metre distance when she joined a training camp in Nairobi.

Rose is one of 56 refugee athletes currently supported by the IOC through the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship for Refugee Athlete Programme. In 2016 she was chosen to proudly carry the flag of the Olympic Refugee Team into Rio's famous Maracanã stadium:

"When we marched into the Maracanã, all of the people at the stadium of all nationalities, plus IOC members, were cheering for the refugees, and it was pure happiness. It was our first time when they just cheered us, that we felt we are human beings like others."

Since Rio, Rose's opportunities have blossomed. She has not only begun studying but also travelled to conferences and forums across the globe, including Dubai, Argentina, Switzerland and Sweden.

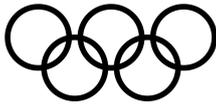
She hopes her story can help inspire others, saying: " We have to encourage refugees to never lose hope in life, because anyone can change his or her life through sport."

The 29-member IOC Refugee Olympic team Tokyo 2020 (EOR)* 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 Close up of Rose Likonyen Nathike training.



00:08 Full body shot of Rose on cross-trainer.

00:13 Close up of Rose training.

00:18 SOUNDBITE: Rose Nathike Likonyen, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Athletics (800m) (English Language).

Q. What is your message to other refugees?

'Being a refugee is just a status, and no-one chose to be a refugee, so you need to have hope in life, so that one day, one time, you will change that status of being a refugee.'

00:31 Rose and training partners set off running.

00:37 Rose and training partners run along the track.

00:41 Rose and training partners sprint down the track towards the camera.

00:46 SOUNDBITE: Rose Nathike Likonyen, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Athletics (800m) (English Language).

Q. How did it feel walking into the Rio 2016 Opening Ceremony?

'Well, since I was a flag-bearer, when we marched into the Maracanã stadium, all of the people at the stadium, of all the nationalities, plus IOC members were cheering at the refugees, and it was happiness since, you know, it was our first time when they just cheered us, at least we feel like we are human beings like others.'

01:10 Rose and training partners catch their breath.

01:15 Rose and training partners walk down the track.

01:22 Rose and training partners walk down track and begin to jog

01:36 SOUNDBITE: Rose Nathike Likonyen, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Athletics (800m) (English Language).

Q. Why do you think it's important to have a refugee Olympic team?

'Since refugees, these are the people who flee from their countries, then for us it is very important. At least we can give the message to the other, so that they may not lose hope in life. Being a refugee, it is not by choice. And anyone can be a refugee. So for you to... to at least be in a good life, you can go ahead for your life until you change that status of being a refugee.'

02:06 Rose and training partners sit and change.

02:11 Close up of Rose putting on her shoes.

02:16 SOUNDBITE: Rose Nathike Likonyen, IOC Refugee Olympic Team (EOR), Tokyo 2020, Athletics (800m) (English Language).

Q. How can sport help refugees?

'Okay, sport can help refugees by coming together, since we are come from different nationalities, so when we meet in sport, either through football, basketball or running, at least make us to interact together and that one can bring peace and we have to encourage some of the refugees to never lose hope in life, because anyone can change his or her life through sport.'

02:45 Rose and training partners sit and change their shoes.

02:50 Close up of Rose.

-- ENDS --

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