

16.08.2016 – Ten refugees who made history as members of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team have started competing at Rio2016. The team includes two Syrian swimmers, two judokas from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a marathoner from Ethiopia and five middle-distance runners from South Sudan.



*Congolese refugees in Rio cheer for Yolande and Popole as they compete the Olympics. □ □
Photo: UNHCR/Miguel Pachioni*

Wednesday 10 August marked a day of high drama at the Olympic Games in Rio. Yolande Mabika bowed out after a tough tussle in the first judo bout of the day, but vowed to keep fighting for refugees. Then, Popole Misenga, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, won his first bout and made history by becoming the first member of the first-ever refugee team ([#teamrefugees](#)) to progress to the next round. His performance triggered wild celebrations, especially among friends at a downtown Congolese community centre where his exploits were followed on a giant television screen.

Team refugees: against all odds

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