

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Kickboxing: Singaporeans Competed in World Kickboxing Championships held in Sarajevo

2 Singaporean athletes competed in the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the biennial World Kickboxing Championship which hosted 754 athletes from 58 countries

**Singapore, 11 November 2019** – Kickboxing is a modern contact fighting sport created on the basis of many traditional martial arts and is currently seeing an increased popularity globally.

Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina played host to the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the biennial **WAKO** (*World Association of Kickboxing Organizations*) **Senior World Kickboxing Championships 2019** – which is the gold standard of Amateur Kickboxing tournaments in the world.



From left to right: Nazri, Joel (Vice President) and Rahman

### Singapore, the first South-East Asian country to participate

Singapore was the first ever country in the South-East Asian region to participate in this prestigious competition.

The nation was represented by National Coach and Athlete, Nazri Sutari (*aged 29*) and National Athlete, Abdur Rahman (*aged 26*).

The competition took place in the Juan Antonio Samaranch Olympic Hall (formerly Zetra Olympic Hall), which was used for various sporting events in the 1984 Winter Olympics.

A total of 5 arenas were set up, 2 Tatami Arenas and 3 Boxing Rings.



*The world level competition was held in the Juan Antonio Samaranch Olympic Hall, which was used for various sporting events in the 1984 Winter Olympics*

### **Dream come true to compete at World level**

Nazri competed in the 'under 75kg K-1 Kickboxing Rules' with a total of 25 athletes in his category.

Rahman competed in the 'under 71kg K-1 Kickboxing Rules' with a total of 24 athletes in his category.

This would mean that both Nazri and Rahman would have to fight 5 times over 5 days to reach the finals. Despite the athletes being placed in hyper-competitive categories, they performed their best but lost to their opponents by points.

Nazri remarks, *"It was definitely an eye-opening experience for me. I never dreamed that I would be able to compete at such a high level. To compete against the best in the world, that is something that I've always dreamed of."*



*As an athlete, I've always wondered how I would fare against the best of the best. I took the chance and did my best with no regrets. The excitement and adrenaline when I step into the ring is something that cannot be replicated elsewhere. No doubt I am disappointed that I didn't make it to the finals, but this experience fuels my hunger and desire to achieve more in Kickboxing in the future."*

Rahman says, *“This competition gave me a new perspective on the level of competition outside of Singapore. Honestly, the level is pretty insane I must say. With that being said, it gives me something to work towards. I know with enough training and consistency, I can reach to that level.*

*I am glad to have done what no Singaporean has before, which is to compete at World level. I am deeply thankful for those who have supported me in this journey. For now, it’s time to relook where my training needs to improve and I believe the only way, is upwards”*

## Russia a Kickboxing Powerhouse

Russia bagged a total of 31 medals (15 Gold, 6 Silver, 10 Bronze), who also sent the biggest contingent with 55 athletes. Serbia ranked second with 15 medals (8 Gold, 4 Silver, 3 Bronze) and Croatia ranked third with 12 medals (3 Gold, 5 Silver, 4 Bronze).

Turkey sent the second largest contingent at 53 athletes and Italy sent the third largest contingent at 38 athletes.

## Both Ranked 17<sup>th</sup> at World Level

Not leaving empty handed, both athletes gains ranking of 17<sup>th</sup> at the World Championships and a whole lot of experience.



DATE	EVENT	TYPE	CATEGORY	EVENT FACTOR	RANK
2019-10-22	KICKBOXING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SENIORS I.C.L.K AND K1 (BFI)	WAKO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	7 K1 (M) 8 M -75 KG	12	17TH PLACE



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## Federation Lays Plans for Athletes

President of Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS), Mr Jason Lim shares, *“I am proud of how the athletes performed and carried themselves on the international stage. In the near future, I believe that they can achieve great things.*



From left to right: Loh Kain Kai (coach), Nazri, Rahman, Joel, Valencia (Secretary) and Jason (President)

*We have a 4-year plan for our athletes. The year 2020 and 2021 is going to be monumental, for the federation and especially the athletes, because I care for them very much and want to provide a pathway for them to succeed at the highest level.*

*We have Asian, European, Continental and World Level competitions in 2020. In 2021, we have Olympic Level competitions on top of what we have in 2020. These Olympic Level competitions are the 2021 World Games held in Birmingham, USA and the 2021 World Combat Games held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.*

*The catch though, for the 2021 competitions, is that you have to qualify. In order to qualify, you have to top the Asian Championship in 2020. It's going to be very exciting, but the athletes have the work cut out for them."*



The World Games  
2021 BIRMINGHAM, USA



2021 World Games and 2021 World Combat Games

*Nazri, shares, "I am glad that Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS) has a 4-year plan laid out for me. We have lots of Asian, Continental and World competitions in 2020 and beyond which I can look forward to."*

## About Kickboxing Federation of Singapore

Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS) is the appointed national representative of the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (WAKO) – the world’s sole governing body for the sport.

In addition, KFS is a provisional member of Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC).

KFS’s SNOC membership can be found on their official directory:

<http://www.singaporeolympics.com/members/>

## Mission

To be the beacon for Kickboxing in Singapore, promoting it as a wholesome sport for ALL and nurturing those with the attributes for “competitive Kickboxing” to realise their maximum potential.

## Vision

- To become one of the leading nations in the sport; at SEA Games, Asian Games and World Level.
- To develop, groom and nurture talent; and to consistently compete and perform at the highest levels across the national squad, and all major international championships.
- To become a regional hub for Kickboxing in South East Asia.

## Objective

We aim to develop the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore by providing:

- Kickboxing as a Sport and/or Fitness activity to everybody regardless of age, gender and race.
- Competition opportunities at National, South-East Asia, Asian and International Levels.
- An avenue to reach out to at-risk youths.

## **Contact Person**

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