

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2011 10:42 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Barred Libyan Tanker May Be Diverted To Benghazi - Sources (WSJ)

From: OpsNewsTicker
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 10:40 PM
To: NEWS-Energy; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-Libya
Cc: SES-O
Subject: Barred Libyan Tanker May Be Diverted To Benghazi - Sources (WSJ)

LONDON (Dow Jones)--An oil-products tanker that was barred to reach the regime of Libya's Col. Moammar Gadhafi now appears set to be diverted to the rebel-held capital of Benghazi, oil and opposition sources said Wednesday.

The Cartagena, a tanker owned by state-controlled General National Maritime Transport Co., was prevented by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to dock in Gadhafi-controlled Libya a few weeks ago. A GNMTC spokesman didn't respond to a phone call for comment.

Fuel has been an important asset sought in the conflict between pro-Gadhafi forces and the rebel Transitional National Council in Benghazi, and it's unclear how the tanker would end up in rebel hands.

Shipping tracking website Marine Traffic showed that the ship travelled in recent days south of Italy after being unable to dock in Algeria, and was recently in the east of Malta. One person said the ship had turned up unexpectedly for bunkering Tuesday night in Malta, while another said the tanker was taken over with the assistance of a foreign nation.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.