A Matter of Life and Death: Veterans Affairs Head Grilled over Delays in Care for Returning Soldiers

STORYMAY 16, 2014

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After news that dozens of U.S. veterans died during long waits for medical treatment, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki testified Thursday before a Senate committee about treatment delays and cover-ups at VA medical centers. The committee grilled him about recent claims that VA health clinics in Phoenix, Arizona, and Fort Collins, Colorado, used elaborate schemes to hide records of patients who waited too long for care, and suggested the problems may lead to a criminal investigation. We get reaction from Aaron Glantz, who covers veterans and domestic military issues for the Center for Investigative Reporting. We also speak with a VA whistleblower who says he was removed from his position as chief of psychiatry at a VA hospital in St. Louis after reporting unethical workplace conduct. Dr. Jose Mathews says he was demoted to the hospital's basement where he now works on compensation and pension exams. He is joined by his attorney Ariel Solomon.

GUESTS

- Aaron Glantz

  covers veterans and domestic military issues for the Center for Investigative Reporting. Glantz has spent more than 10 years covering the Iraq War and the treatment veterans receive when they come home. He is author of three books on the war, most recently, The War Comes Home: Washington's Battle Against America's Veterans. He also just wrote an article for the Center for Investigative Reporting in collaboration with ABC news called "Delays in Care Threaten Health and Safety of Veterans, New VA Whistleblower Says."

- Jose Mathews

  Veterans Affairs hospital whistleblower. He said he was removed from his position as chief of psychiatry at the Veterans Affairs hospital in St. Louis after reporting unethical workplace conduct. After complaining, Mathews says he was demoted to the hospital's basement where he now performs compensation and pension exams.

- Ariel Solomon

  attorney for Dr. Jose Mathews.