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Scott Flipse, deputy director of policy and research at the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**, said China is at a tipping point. For years, he said people thought when China become an economic giant, advances also would be made in the way its leaders treat citizens.

Unfortunately, Flipse said the opposite has happened. The country uses its technology to further persecute and its leaders have only become more aggressive in advancing their own interests over the rights of others.

"We thought that prosperity would change China -- allow more freedoms," he said, speaking to the about 150 present at the Hilton Midland Plaza Thursday evening. "That hasn't happened."